# Alice Lonnon Perkins Hill of Palomar Mountain

**Peter Brueggeman 2026**

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Alice Lonnon Perkins came to Palomar Mountain after she married Harry Elwood Hill in 1917 [7]. Robert Asher heard a tall tale from Harry Hill about his background with Asher writing in his *My Palomar* memoir [1]:

> Harry Elwood Hill was a Montana boy, his father a big cattle raiser until the time of his death. Harry was 19 years old at the time. His mother and two sisters moved to New Jersey. As the only son on a big cattle ranch, he must have been in a position comparable to that of a crown prince of a little kingdom. The ranch was in the Blackfoot Indian country and the Indians used to migrate north and south each year. Each spring as they came through, they would bring Harry an Indian pony, small ones at first, then progressively larger ones as the boy grew up. Once a year they measured him when going one way, and on the return trip they would have a skin suit ready for him, just his size.

**Harry Hill, c1923** Robert Asher photo

Harry Elwood Hill was born in 1877 in Taylortown, New Jersey to Nicholas W. Hill and Mary Francis Carman Hill. On September 5, 1864, his father Nicholas W. Hill (1840 – May 1, 1876) married Mary Francis Carman (June 22, 1847 – October 29, 1927, Findagrave ID 109948438). They had three daughters and a son, all born in New Jersey: Clara A. (1866-1881), Mary A. (1867-dead by 1870 census), and Cora May (1872-1935), and Harry Elwood Hill in 1877.

In the 1880 U.S. Census recorded on June 15, 1880, Mary Hill was a widow living in Boonton, New Jersey, with children Clara (age14), Cora (age 8), and Harry (age 3); Mary Hill's occupation was seamstress.

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> After the breakup of the home, Harry enlisted in the United States Cavalry. When the Spanish War came, he was sent to the Philippines. He saw active duty there and was wounded more than once. When William Howard Taft made the famous trip to the Philippines with Alice Roosevelt in his party, Harry was in charge of the pack train on the trip away from Manila. He was so horribly seasick on the way going from this country that he didn't want to come back when his regiment was ordered home. It took quite a bit of persuasion on the part of his superior officer to get him on board ship. But return he did, and none the worse from wear from mal de mer.

The Spanish-American War was in 1898. The Taft Mission to Asia occurred June 30 to October 23, 1905.

In the 1900 U.S. Census, Harry Elwood Hill is recorded as single, age 22, and living in Seattle, with occupation day laborer.

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> For two years after leaving the army he worked in an Oregon glove factory. One of his jobs was to split hides and skins, and he became quite an expert -- so expert in fact that he could cut a slice of bread pretty nearly as thin as a sheet of wrapping paper. I know because he liked to tease me by giving me a real thin slice. I am not ashamed to admit that I am hard on bread, but then you know the old saying that "bread is the staff of life" and what is a staff good for if you cannot lean on it good and heavy once in a while?

In the 1910 U.S. Census at age 33, Harry Elwood Hill is divorced and rooming at a house in Escondido, with occupation glovemaker.

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> One time, before he married Mrs. Hill, there came an insurrection in Mexico and the then Mexican Government had emissaries in the country enlisting prospective fighters. Harry was in Escondido at the time and was offered $200 per month to serve as a major in the Mexican Army. He was with his command when the enemy appeared. He gave orders to his men not to start shooting until he, as major, gave the signal. As the enemy approached, one young Mexican beside Harry let fly without waiting for the signal. What immediately followed can only be surmised. I think Harry gave the boy a light kick with his booted toe. That didn't go so well, coming from a gringo, even if the gringo was his commanding officer. Major Harry Hill got across

> the border just in time to save his life but without the mazuma coming to him [mazuma is slang for money].

On July 24, 1913, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido published San Marcos news including [22]:

> Harry Hill of Escondido and his assistant Ira Raub are doing excellent work on the boulevard south of the townsite. They have wet and rolled the road and are surfacing it with disintegrated granite. When it is completed it will be one of the finest pieces of road in the county.

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> Back in this country he obtained a job as road boss under Supervisor Joseph Foster and was on duty near Mesa Grande where he first met the lady he afterward married [he married Alice Lonnon Perkins in 1917]. After the wedding they were in a county road camp for awhile, with Harry acting in the role of chief cook and bottle-washer for the outfit. Then they moved up to the Fink Ranch on the east end of Palomar, from there to the Cleaver place and then to Quigley Hill.
>
> Harry had seen something of the world, but Mrs. Hill had been about still more. She was a native of San Francisco a daughter of Joseph Day Perkins and Charlotte Pilkington Perkins. They named her Alice, no middle name. Later her father told her she could take any middle name she liked. Lonnon was her grandmother's moniker so she chose that and blossomed out as Alice Lonnon Perkins. Still later when she entered the theatre she dropped the Perkins, retaining Lonnon for her stage name -- Alice Lonnon (Her grandmother was Margaret Lonnon Pilkington).

**Alice Lonnon Perkins**, 1906

Alice Lonnon Perkins was born December 28, 1872, to Joseph Day Perkins (1830-1914) and Charlotte Pilkington (1843-1885). Her brother was Philip Joseph Perkins (June 22, 1869 – September 4, 1953).

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* (names corrected from Asher's original text) [1]:

> After passing through grammar grades in the San Francisco schools, Alice Perkins entered as a student in the Cogswell Polytechnic College which ranked with the high schools of California. She was a member of the first class, and took trades, drawing, clay modeling, and sewing, also chemistry and pharmacy, graduating in 1891. She had expected to get a job as a pharmacist, but her father put his foot down on her working for anybody but himself or her brother, Phil (Philip Joseph Perkins, 1869-1953).
>
> She then took elocution lessons every day for six months, paying for her tuition by helping in other classes. She then got a job with a San Francisco troupe of players; was with Frederick Warde and Rose Warde in a production of Shakespearean plays. Madam (Helena) Modjeska gave her a small part on January 25, 1897. She was then still Alice Perkins. Joseph S. Haworth as leading man succeeded Modjeska one week with a good part given to Alice Perkins, then came an engagement with the Frank Bacon Company and they were several months on tour.

On September 5, 1897, the Sacramento Daily Record-Union reported theater news including [5]:

> Manager Todd of the Clunie Opera-house, Sacramento, will open the reconstructed theater on the 12th inst. with Frank Bacon's stock company. … Bacon, Miss Weidemann and several old favorites will be in the troupe. The leading lady is **Miss Perkins**, late chief support to Madam Modjeska, and an artist of fine ability. The opening play will be the low comedy "Jane." Two places will be presented weekly, and the engagement will be for a fortnight. …

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* (names corrected from Asher's original text) [1]:

> Went East February 1898 in a company and played in New England with Haworth as leading man. They were out on the road with a Charles Frohman Company. Alice then went into a stock company in Chicago and married the English actor, Harry Gittus Lonsdale, all in 1898; both of them playing on the Pacific Coast with L. R. Stockwell and Clay Clement. They both went back to Boston in 1900 and joined the Edward Smith Willard Company. Willard was an English actor also.

**Harry Gittus Lonsdale,** undated

Harry Gittus Lonsdale, who was often credited as H. Gittus Lonsdale, was born December 6, 1862. Lonsdale married Alice Lonnon Perkins on March 12, 1899 [6].

Lonsdale died February 8, 1939.

"Play Pictorial" Sertes, 17. 11.

April 20th 1904

Will you be able to come to see
the Cardinal this week, & say for a
account in the Courier,

A. D.

"Play Pictorial" Series, 17. 1.

Montreal, Can. Sept 20/06

My dear Miss Gebra

I give me great pleasure
to sign you. Sincerely yours Alice Lonsdale

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* (names corrected from Asher's original text) [1]:

> Alice left the Willard Company after going to England about 1903-4, visited with relatives in Europe, and came back to get a job which she didn't keep. Willard came back to New York and both of the Lonsdales joined his company again.

On March 22, 1905, the Chicago Daily News published a review of "The Professor's Love Story" with E.S. Willard, Alice Lonnon, and others, that included this paragraph [15]:

> Loveliness of Alice Lonnon
>
> Miss Alice Lonnon, beautified by the cheer and smart bubble of joy governing her charming comedy part, bloomed apace in exquisite loveliness. Instead of the suffering Mary with her black frocks and suicidal grief Miss Lonnon had the Barrie heroine all seductive smiles and rosy expectancy, the drifting clouds in her sky being of the most wavering, sure-to-be dispelled sort. In the harvest times scene with Willard and afterward Lady Gilding, the dowager, Miss Lonnon was captivating, and in the sparkling dialogues of the last act she was delightful, her beauty enhanced by dainty gowns and broad picture hats and all the gay and tasteful things of summertide. Miss Lonnon

is one of the precious introductions to the American public for which it must be grateful to Willard. She is superbly beautiful, but her beauty does not deter a prompt recognition of her admirable style of acting, her personality and decided talent. It does sometime with rarely handsome women.

**Alice Lonnon, c1900-1910**

New-York Historical Society, Burr McIntosh Photograph Collection, 1898-1910 dcmny.org/do/dd397049-83b2-4071-97d5-b9a4f27a0ae4

On April 20, 1905, the Detroit Evening News published a review of E.S. Willard's drama "The Middleman" mentioning Alice Lonnon [16]:

> Her Saxon fairness of complexion, speech, and the fact that she is the leading support of an English star, whose company has for the major part been "imported" always for his American trips, has caused Miss Alice Lonnon to be generally accepted and called an Englishwoman. It seems she is nothing of the sort, but a Californian, born and bred in Oakland, and after adopting the professional stage received her training in stock companies on the Pacific coast. "Yes, I know there is a general impression that I am English, but I am a daughter of California as a matter of fact," declares Miss Lonnon, who in private life is the wife of Mr. H. Gittus Lonsdale of the Willard company, and with her husband is staying at the Russell house. "This is my fifth season with Mr. Willard. I had never played in the east or middle west until I joined his company. I was trained for a teacher of elocution, but very soon found out I could not devote myself to that work, and I longed for the footlights. I got my stage schooling in California stock companies, and you know we have graduated from California many players who have become famous." Miss Lonnon is a tall, very slim young woman, with hair that is absolutely blond, as distinguished from golden, blue eyes and delicate features. Her voice and diction would suggest British rather than American birth, and the fact that her nationality is generally placed as English seems a very natural mistake to make.

On August 13, 1905, the San Francisco Chronicle reported [18]:

> Alice Lonnon to Play on a Local Stage
>
> TO COME HERE WITH O'SULLIVAN
>
> Beautiful Californian, Who Has Made a Hit With Willard, Is Added to the Cast.
>
> Quite a bit of distinction will be added to the Denis O'Sullivan engagement at the Grand Opera-house by the appearance of Alice Lonnon, or as she is known to her friends in California and off the stage, Alice Perkins Lonsdale. She will not take the leading roles, as they are already provided for, but all the more interesting will it be to have so distinguished an actress as Alice Lonnon take minor parts. Miss Lonnon is well remembered in this city as beautiful Alice Perkins. She does not know just how, but she drifted upon the stage when she had not planned to do so, but step by step she has made her way, until now she is playing leading roles with Willard. She returned to this, her native city, four years ago, in the Willard company, but it was during the car strike, and the engagement was most unsatisfactory. At that

time she was cast for minor work, but directly afterward she went East and then to London with Willard, playing everywhere with the greatest success. She returns East in September to fill important engagements. Miss Lonnon came to California this summer so that she might spend her vacation with her father, who is in feeble health. Miss Lonnon's face is mobile and of splendid lines, while her grace of figure and pose, and her agreeable voice, make her one of the conspicuous young actresses of the day. She is well connected in this city. Her interest and participation in the coming Grand Opera-house engagement is because she is quite closely related to Mrs. Denis O'Sullivan. Mrs. Oscar Maurer, who gave such a handsome reception last Friday evening in honor of this interesting California girl, is her cousin. Because of her ability and her interesting social connections the appearance of Miss Lonnon will be looked forward to with unusual interest.

On May 8, 1906, the Toledo Daily Blade reported [19]:

> Mr. Willard's Leading Lady
>
> When Mr. Willard played in St. Louis last week, he was most enthusiastically received, and, as usual, taxed the capacity of the theatre at every performance. His young leading lady. Miss Alice Lonnon, came in for a great deal of praise as well. Here is the way one of the newspapers treated her.
>
> "England? No, I come from California," said this pretty actress when I called upon her in the Southern Hotel parlors yesterday. "I know there is an impression here and there that I am an English woman, but I am not. I was born at Oakland, Cal., and I was a player out there before I joined Mr. Willard's company. 'Coast defenders' they call us out there. I was a coast defender."
>
> It seemed to me when I watched her upon the Olympic stage that Miss Lonnon was one of the most imaginative players I had ever seen. She lived her part. To her she was not herself, but Lucy White or Mary Blenkarn. To her these other people playing about her were not who they are, but play characters sprung into life at the touch of her vitalizing imagination. "That is just the way I feel," she said, when I suggested this characteristic of hers. "I love my work. I love the stage. I love the plays and the parts. When the performance begins it excites me into utter forgetfulness that it is a play. To me it is life. Oh, you don't know how wonderfully I love it and how much I delight to go from night to night into this character and that. Why shouldn't I appear eager, when for me imagery clothes it all in reality the moment the play begins? Of course, you must guess that such a temperament gains me many torments, and I can assure you it does. If I played Mary Blenkarn many times successively I should be most unhappy, for I am instantly plunged into the gloom of the piece. It has a most depressing effect upon me. We had a long London run in The Cardinal. It was one of those plays which are depressing to imaginative people who see too much of them. We lived in its gloom, and it was maddening. I think it affected every one of us. You may imagine what a relief from that sort of play is this delightful American tour in repertoire."
>
> Miss Lonnon is by disposition as sunny as her light-yellow hair and her bright, blue eyes. She is most delightful off, as on, the stage, and as rich in graciousness as she is in charm. She is as thin as Ethel Barrymore, as human as Maude Adams. When she shall have had a few more seasons of the sort of experience she is getting now we shall have not need to ask who she is. C.M'A.

**Alice Lonnon, c1900-1910**

New-York Historical Society, Burr McIntosh Photograph Collection, 1898-1910 dcmny.org/do/dd397049-83b2-4071-97d5-b9a4f27a0ae4

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> Lonsdale was in the (Willard) company for only one year this time, and something must have happened for Alice Lonnon got a divorce from him.

On August 5, 1906, the San Francisco Call reported [6]:

> EASTERN ACTRESS ASKS DIVORCE
>
> Alice Lonnon Alleges Husband Once Tried to Break Her Neck
>
> CHARGES CRUELTY
>
> Alice Lonnon, leading woman in the Willard stock company that plays in New York, Boston and other large cities along the Atlantic seaboard, wants a divorce from her husband, Harry Gettus Lonsdale, who is playing comedy, although he has been an operatic star. Alice Lonnon, who is Alice Perkins Lonsdale off the stage, alleges that ever since their marriage Lonsdale has been cruel, and that on one occasion he attempted to break her neck. Miss Lonnon is not a present in San Francisco, according to Louis Sonntag, her attorney. He states that she makes her home in this city, but that at present she is in another part of California, awaiting not only the termination of the divorce suit but the commencement of her theatrical season, which opens in September. According to the complaint, the actor and actress were married in New York City March 12, 1899. Their honeymoon seems to have been short, for Mrs. Lonsdale alleges that between September 1 and May 31, 1902, her husband was abusive of her, and upon one occasion said:
>
> “I have taken you out of the gutter and made you what you are. You will sink to where you came from if I don’t look after you.”
>
> She also accuses him of opening between 300 and 400 sealed letters that were addressed to her, reading the contents. Some of the letters commented on Lonsdale’s conduct and he took umbrage at them. After January, 1900, up to April of last year, at which time she left her husband, he continued his abuse and would compel her to await his return before she ate her meals. This, she says would frequently be an hour or so after the regular meal time. In Boston and in Canada she accuses him of having drunk a considerable amount of liquor. The complaint says further that Lonsdale was a constant gambler. On other occasions, when they were living in San Francisco, Mrs. Lonsdale says that her husband insisted on telegraphing his wife’s relatives for money, much to her mortification and in spite of the fact that they were both earning good salaries on the stage. She accuses her husband on one occasion of having attacked her in Newark, N.J., and alleges that he

attempted to break her neck by thrusting her over a chair. He at that time accused her of unfaithfulness and said that as soon as he found the man who had supplanted him he would kill them both.

On August 6, 1906, the San Francisco Call reported [20]:

Identity Is Revealed by Suit for Divorce

Ten years ago Alice Perkins Lonsdale, a San Francisco society belle, went East to win stage honors. A few days ago she arrived at Berkeley. Her suit for divorce from Harry Gittus, an actor, revealed her presence to friends.

Alice Lonnon, Talented Actress, Is Former San Franciscan.

BERKELEY, Aug. 5. -- The “tallest actress in the world,” Alice Lonnon, a former San Francisco society girl, who now is spending her summer up in the hills of North Berkeley, provided her friends with a surprise by filing her suit for divorce from Harry Gittus, who is an actor of some prominence in the East, though comparatively unknown here. The people who were Alice Lonnon’s companions in her girlhood days in San Francisco knew her as Alice Perkins Lonsdale. Nearly ten years ago the girl left this coast to seek stage honors in the land beyond the Rockies. She succeeded in her quest, for last season she occupied the enviable position of leading lady in the dramatic company brought together by E.S. Willard. “Divinely tall” is Alice Lonnon, her stature suggesting queenliness and making it easy for the California actress to take the roles where regal carriage and imposing mien are desirable concomitants of the part. Nothing so commonplace as a measuring rod ever was placed atop of Alice Lonnon’s proud head and no statistics are available for comparison of her height with that of other stately women of the stage, but by common consent she is accorded the distinction, among other notable qualities, of being “the tallest actress in the world.” She has not appeared on this coast since her rise to fame, and so the local admirers of the actress have been obliged to be content with the judgment of Eastern critics that she is one of the most delightful, accomplished and versatile women of the drama. In her application for divorce Alice Lonnon declares that cruelty on the part of Harry Gittus, with whom she has not lived since April of last year, is the ground upon which her desire for formal separation is based. Gittus, she states in her complaint, “frequently absented himself from the plaintiff at meal time and required her to await his return for periods of one hour and more in order to partake of her meals with the defendant.” Another ground for complaint is that the defendant would “awaken the plaintiff and continue to talk to her, against her protest, for hours, depriving her of needed rest,” this occurring after Gittus had returned home late at night.

On January 12, 1907, the Washington Herald published a review of a double bill of plays which mentioned Alice Lonnon [21]:

> MR. WILLARD IN TWO PLAYS
>
> The English Actor Delights Largest Audience of the Week
>
> A double bill – Robertson's "David Garrick" and a dramatization of Kipling's "The Man Who Was" – served to attract a host of Mr. Willard's admirers to the National Theater last night. … In the role of Ada Ingot in "Garrick," Miss Alice Lonnon gave proof of considerable emotional ability, which she mingled with fascinating coquetry. Miss Lonnon has beauty of a pure and delicate type as to coloring, with classic and spirituelle features suggestive of an exquisite cameo. Few actresses owe so little to the make-up box and at the same time preserve so potent a charm. With hair of the lightest blond, and a texture of spun gold, and an apple-blossom complexion, she makes a picture of almost ethereal loveliness. To heighten the color of that complexion, even the fraction of a shade, would destroy the picturesque value of her hair, the exact tone of which is not possessed by one woman in a thousand. No blind allegiance to a fancied dramatic requirement should tempt Miss Lonnon to disguise the rare beauty with which nature has so bountifully endowed her. When the personal appearance is sufficient to convey the conception and interpretation of a role, the addition of make-up is unnecessary and inartistic. Miss Lonnon plays the parts of young and beautiful women, and, therefore, needs no mask for her natural and attractive personality. …

The divorce took some time to complete. On April 17, 1908, the San Francisco Chronicle reported on several divorce cases, including hers [41]:

> MANY NEW SUITS ARE FILED
>
> Actress Sues Husband at Long Range --- Testimony by Deposition.
>
> … A divorce case in which neither of the principals was present was heard by Judge Mogan and taken under advisement. Alice Perkins Lonsdale is suing Harry Gittus Lonsdale on the ground of cruelty. Both are on the stage, Mrs. Lonsdale having at one time been a member of E.S. Willards's company when the husband was with Nat Goodwin. The depositions of both were produced in court. Lonsdale denied the cruelty charges and declared that he still loved his wife. Mrs. Lonsdale's grounds for divorce included several novel allegations. She declared that her husband, who is an Englishman, had said that no American was a gentleman; that he would talk

and talk and keep her awake at night, and that he often made her go out to dinner alone. …

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* (names corrected from Asher's original text) [1]:

She stayed with the Willard Company until 1908, then no job for two years. Then with Marc Klaw and Abraham Lincoln Erlanger in "The Right of Way." Theodore Roberts and Guy Standing were the two stars.

Then "Aunty Joe" Pilkington (Josephine Pilkington Hill) came East from California and took Alice Lonnon Perkins on a trip to Europe. Aunty Joe returned to the United States but Alice stayed on.

Maud Allan, a schoolmate and girlhood friend, was there, so she toured with Maud for four years. They were in England, Scotland, Ireland, South Africa, India, and then Australia.

COPYRIGHT 1898 BY THE ROSE COMPANY
AS FILIBERTA IN "THE CARDINAL"
"If it were not for women, men would never learn anything"
Lucy White in
The Professor's Love Story
AS ADA INGOT IN "DAVID GARRICK"
Alice Lonnon

A contemporary of Isadora Duncan, Maud Allan was an aesthetic dancer who debuted in Vienna in 1903 and became particularly famous for dancing the “The Vision of Salome” production starting in 1908 [9,10].

Born Ulah Maud Allan Durrant, Maud Allan knew Alice Lonnon Perkins from their San Francisco youth where their families were friends [11,12]. Alice Lonnon Perkins and Maud’s brother Theodore Durrant were in the first graduating class of the Cogswell Polytechnical College in 1891 [17]. Later, while attending Cooper Medical College, Theodore Durrant sexually assaulted and murdered two women at the Baptist church he attended and was executed at San Quentin Prison on January 7, 1898 [10].

**Maud Allan as Salome, 1910**

**Maud Allan as Salome**, 1908

In the 1910 U.S. Census, Alice L. Perkins, divorced, is a theater actress living in Manhattan, New York City.

In November 1911, Maud Allan went on a month-long dancing performance tour of South Africa with her lifelong friend Alice Lonnon, who recited "stories in prose and verse," including passages from Shakespeare and other plays [10,12,13]." Maud Allan met the Cherniavsky Trio there, comprising Leo (violinist), Jan (pianist), and Mischel (cellist) [10,13].

Starting in November 1913 and ending in January 1915, Maud Allan toured with the Cherniavsky Trio in India, New Zealand, Burma, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Manila, Australia and other places [12,13]. Alice Lonnon went on her friend's tour and was officially designated as her secretary/companion [12].

On their arrival in Bombay, Maud Allan and Alice Lonnon settled into a hotel suite of rooms which cost three pounds a day including meals [12,13].

Maud Allan wrote an autobiography in the late 1930s referring to Alice Lonnon, her "female companion," as "mother, duenna, manager, secretary, lady's maid-alter ego [12]." Mischel Cherniavsky remarked of Alice Lonnon that "she was a lovely one;" he and others on the tour indicated that the relationship between Maud Allan and Alice Lonnon was occasionally a physical one [12].

**Alice Lonnon, Tom D., Maud Allan (left to right), India, 1913**.
Website has caption reversed Dance Collection Danse Archive

On May 20, 1914, the Gisborne Times published [14]:

> MAUD ALLAN IN WELLINGTON
>
> All the members of the Maud Allan Company, together with Miss Lonnon who is a personal friend of Miss Allan's, were present at an "At Home" given by the Pioneer Club, and they were received by the vice-president, Miss Amy Kane, who made a cordial little speech of welcome. Miss Allan, in reply, expressed her pleasure at being present. She wore dark sapphire blue chiffon charmeuse with a draped tunic and a V-shaped vest of lace into which was tucked a knot of damask roses, the same flowers again appearing on her dark blue velvet hat; Miss Lonnon was in grey duvetyn, with a vest of lace, and her blue cloth coat had a collar and revers of grey fox; Miss Kane wore smoke-grey charmeuse, with kilted frills of white crepe de chine and a black velvet hat.

On May 30, 1914, the New Zealand Observer reported on Maud Allan's tour, misspelling her last name as Allen [8]:

> Maud Allen, the poetess of movement will glide locally next weeks, her preliminary motion-sonnets to be seen on Monday night next. Miss Allan is the high priestess of the art or craft of physical expression, who creates music by moving, tells stories without words, and forces emotions by sheer genius. Her triumph is in her appeal to the imagination, and although she is likelier to charm the intellectual than the uncultured, she yet draws all classes by the poetry of her work. With her come Leo, Jan and Mischel Cherniavsky, the vivid instrumentalists who were a short time ago young prodigies, but who are now mature exponents of their art. The season at His Majesty's is to be for six nights only.

Identifications for the *New Zealand Observer* photo: (left to right) J. S. Mitchell (the company electrician), Frank St. Leger, Mischel, Jan, and Leo Cherniavsky, Maud Allan, the tour director, **Alice Lonnon**, and Nizan, the company valet. [8,12]

Alice Lonnon departed Maud Allan's tour in July 1914 [12]. Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* (names corrected from Asher's original text) [1]:

> Leaving Maud in Australia, Alice Lonnon jumped back to London, arriving just four days after England and Germany went to war, August 8. She joined a company playing "Bluff King Hal" by Louis N. Parker. Arthur Bourchier was star. The company closed shop and she stayed until December when she returned to America.

Some of the years that Robert Asher cites for Alice Lonnon Perkins' theatrical activities have disparities with her theatrical biography and with items in newspaper archives [1].

**LONNON, Alice,** actress ; *b.* Oakland, California, 28 Dec., 1872 ; *d.* of Charlotte (Pilkington) and Joseph Perkins ; *e.* San Francisco public schools, and the Cogswell Polytechnic College ; studied for the stage under Mrs. Louise Humphrey-Smith in San Francisco ; *m.* H. G. Lonsdale ; after several engagements walking on, she appeared with Madame Modjeska as Teresa in "Magda," 1897 ; from 1897 to 1900, assumed a variety of *rôles*, supporting Madame Modjeska, Joseph Haworth, L. R. Stockwell, Frank Bacon, Clay Clement, and others ; in Nov., 1900, she joined Mr. E. S. Willard, with whom she played for seven seasons, gradually advancing until in 1902-4 she played the leading *rôles* in "The Rogue's Comedy," "All for Her," "Tom Pinch," and "The Cardinal" ; made her first appearance on the London stage at the St. James's, 31 Aug., 1903, as Benedetta in "The Cardinal" ; during 1905-7 played entire "lead" in Mr. Willard's *répertoire* ; was then engaged by Klaw and Erlanger for the part of Kathleen in "The Right of Way," at Wallack's Theatre, New York, 4 Nov., 1907 ; at the Garrick Theatre, London, Sept., 1914, played Anne Askew in "Bluff King Hal."

Who's Who in the Theatre, a biographical record of the contemporary stage.
John Parker. London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1926

Alice Lonnon is listed as a passenger on the S.S. Transylvania sailing from Liverpool, England on December 5, 1914, and arriving in New York on December 16, with her home address being Petaluma, California.

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> Fell ill in New York but managed to get to California where she was ill for two years. Started for Florida but took in the San Diego Exposition. (The

> Panama-California Exposition was held during the years 1915-1916). The January floods of 1916 kept her in San Diego until February when she went on to Florida. She came home five months later for an operation, and went to Mesa Grande, back of San Diego, to recuperate. She met Harry Hill there. Went home to San Francisco and came back later and married Harry. They honeymooned eight miles east of Ramona in a county road camp.

Harry Hill was living in Ramona by this time [23]. On March 28, 1917, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido noted in its Palomar Paragraphs column [54]:

> Mr. and Mrs. Hill, of Ramona, were over-night guests at Palomar hotel on Sunday.

On April 21, 1917, the Petaluma Daily Morning Courier reported [7]:

> QUIET WEDDING AT RAMONA
>
> The wedding of Mrs. Alice Lonnon Perkins of this city (Petaluma) and Harry Elwood Hill took place at Ramona, Cal., a few weeks ago and was witnessed by just the immediate relatives. The ceremony was read by Judge Kelley. The couple are making their home at Ramona for the present. Mrs. Josie P. Hill and nieces, the Misses Pilkington of this city, attended the wedding and returned home aft the ceremony, having made the trip in the Hill car. Mrs. Hill had been here spending the winter with her aunt Mrs. Josie Hill, but left las month for the south to become a bride. She is a charming young woman and was for years on the stage and known as Alice Lonnon. She filled engagements in the east and also in Europe. Mrs. Hill is cousin of A.B. Hill of this city.

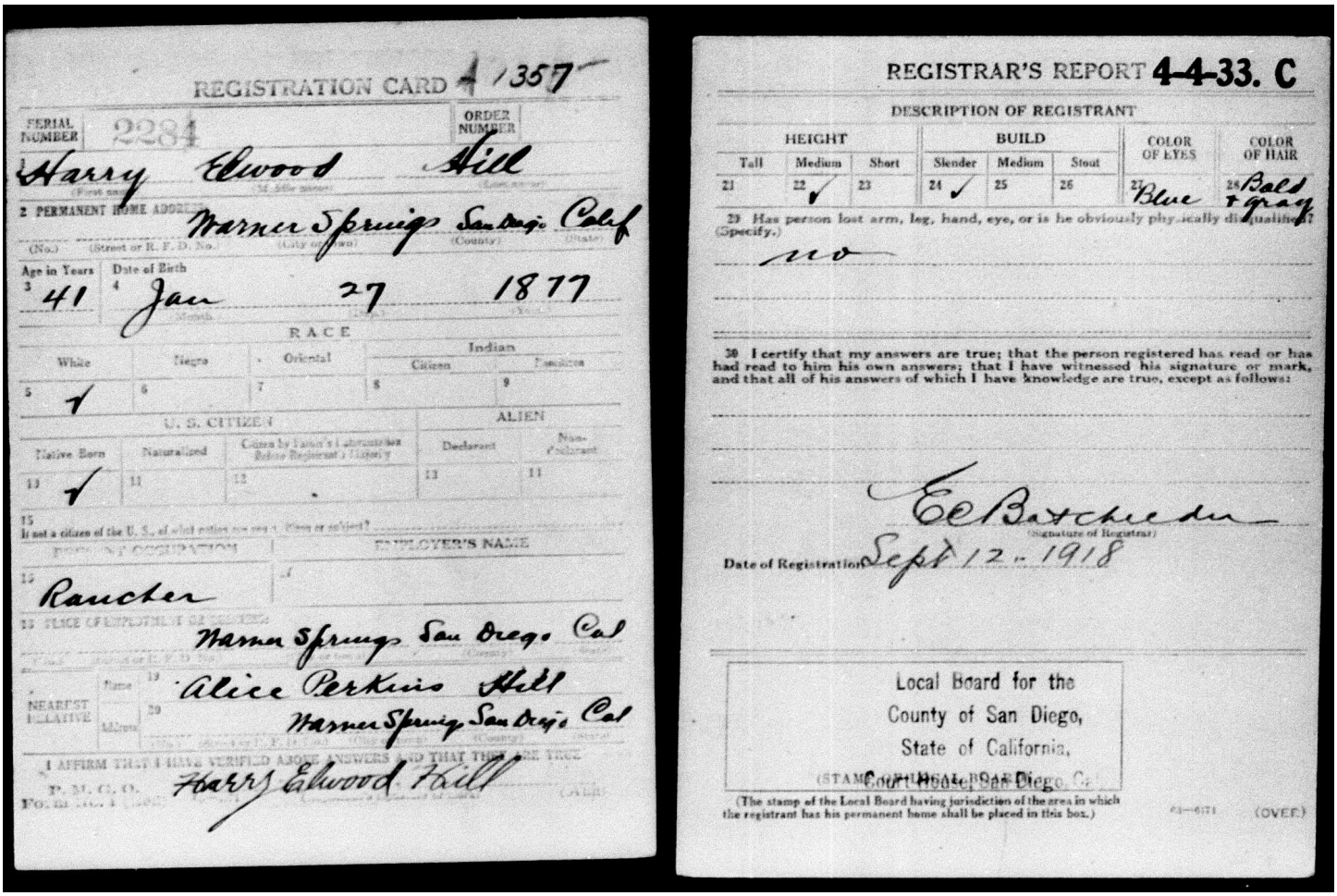
Harry Hill and Alice Perkins Hill lived in Witch Creek near Ramona for some time [25]. Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> Harry had been a road boss under Joe Foster, but old Joe told Harry if he wanted the missus in camp, he, Harry, would have to be cook under another road boss. Harry was a fine cook according to Mrs. Hill…

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> (They) came up to Fink's (Winbert Fink's land in Will Valley on the east side of Palomar Mountain). They stayed at Fink's from July to September but, finding that they couldn't buy the Nellie McQueen place (in Dyche Valley on the east side of Palomar Mountain) as they had hoped, they went over to Bailey's and ran the place for Milton through the following winter.

On September 12, 1918, Harry Elwood Hill registered for the draft; Warner Springs was the nearest location to the east side of Palomar Mountain where the Hills lived at the time.



REGISTRATION CARD 1357

SERIAL NUMBER 2284 ORDER NUMBER

Harry Elwood Hill

2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS Warner Springs San Diego Calif

Age in Years 41 Date of Birth Jan 27 1877

RACE

| White | Negro | Oriental | Indian Citizen | Indian Ward |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 ✓ | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

U. S. CITIZEN

| Native Born | Naturalized | Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority | ALIEN Declarant | ALIEN Non-Declarant |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 ✓ | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |

15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation or ruler is he a citizen or subject?

16 OCCUPATION Rancher EMPLOYER'S NAME

17 Warner Springs San Diego Cal

NEAREST RELATIVE Name 19 Alice Perkins Hill

Address 20 Warner Springs San Diego Cal

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

P. M. C. O. Harry Elwood Hill

(Witness)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT 4-4-33. C

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

| HEIGHT Tall | HEIGHT Medium | HEIGHT Short | BUILD Slender | BUILD Medium | BUILD Stout | COLOR OF EYES | COLOR OF HAIR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | 22 ✓ | 23 | 24 ✓ | 25 | 26 | 27 Blue | 28 Bald Gray |

29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify.) no

30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

E. C. Batcheller (Signature of Registrar)

Date of Registration Sept 12 - 1918

Local Board for the County of San Diego, State of California, Court House, San Diego, Cal.

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

(OVER)

In her September 1918 journal, Elsie Roberts of Palomar's Planwydd resort wrote [34]:

> By September 24, we began picking regular crop (of apples). Picked about fifty lug boxes. … Mr. Hill and Mr. Hewlett helping us pick. …

On October 4, 1918, the Daily Times-Advocate reported on Palomar news including [24]:

> Harry Hill has purchased the entire stock in Dr. Milton Bailey's grocery, and the store is closed. Mr. and Mrs. Hill will occupy the hotel this winter and have charge of Dr. Bailey's interests here.

On October 23, 1918, the Daily Times-Advocate reported on Palomar news including [55]:

> Harry Hill, caretaker of Palomar hotel, is suffering from an attack of lumbago.

On December 11, 1918, the Daily Times-Advocate reported on Palomar news including [26]:

> L.C. Smith, owner of the property formerly belonging to B.H. Elmore, has sold to Harry Hill. The ranch consists of 80 acres, 10 acres of which is in apple orchard, old trees. There are also ripe garden land, a small pasture, some hay and rough timber land.

Before Bentley H. Elmore, this was the property where Clark Cleaver lived and is located southwest of the intersection of State Park Road and Bailey Meadow Road.

In her January 1919 journal, Elsie Roberts of Palomar's Planwydd resort wrote [34]:

> … Jack (Roberts) went to the Hills to milk cows late after supper. Jack went twice more to the Hills to milk their cows while Mr. Hill is away. …

On January 17, 1919, the Times-Advocate reported on Palomar news including [27]:

> Mr. and Mrs. Hill are at present living at the Bailey place on the mountain.

In her March 1919 journal, Elsie Roberts of Palomar's Planwydd resort wrote [34]:

> Mrs. Hill, who was on stage for years, called and talked very entertainingly of literary lights in New York, etc. … Aunt Mamie and I went to call on Mrs. Hill at the new place (Clark Cleaver's old ranch) where they stay daytimes a good deal. ...

On April 5, 1919, the Daily Times-Advocate reported [28]:

> HARRY HILL BUYS APPLE RANCH ON PALOMAR MT.
>
> Harry Hill came down from Palomar Thursday for a short visit with old friends, returning Saturday. Mr. Hill has bought the eighty acre Cleaver ranch of Palomar, which includes its twenty acre orchard of apple trees.

In her April 1919 journal, Elsie Roberts of Palomar's Planwydd resort wrote [34]:

> Mrs. Hill came for lunch and went to Faerie Wood with me. We both enjoyed it. I gathered branches, moss, cones and ferns to send to Edna who has tuberculosis. …
>
> A glorious spring day. … Then Catherine and I went to the Hills with Papa (Alonzo Hayes) to get strawberry plants, we got 700. …

Robert Asher wrote about Nate Harrison's 1919 departure from Palomar Mountain in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> One day when Harry and Mrs. Hill drove by Nate's well, he was not there. They drove on up the mountain, but when they reached the Mack place, they stopped to see Mr. Hayes. Mr. Hayes had seen nothing of Nate for some time and was worried about him. So, according to Mrs. Hill's version of the case, Mr. Hayes investigated and found Nate so crippled by rheumatism that he was unable to get about, and there was no one with him. Mrs. Hill was of the opinion that Mr. Hayes thereupon loaded Nate into his wagon and took him down to the hospital.
>
> There is, however, another version of the story: It seems that Harry Hill and Ed Quinlan had informed the County Supervisors of Nate's plight, and that the Board had ordered Constable Harry Hubble to go and get Nate and bring him down to the County Hospital. A Mr. Butler, who was in charge of the County Garage, accompanied Hubble on the trip. Mr. Butler told me about the trip himself. He said that Nate objected most strenuously against being taken away and had only consented after the two county men had succeeded in convincing him that a continued residence on his place would not be fair to his friends on the mountain. Butler told me that Nate begged to be allowed to get a new pair of overalls at the Pala store. The old Negro said that his old pair of overalls was not good enough to go visiting in.

On July 8, 1919, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido published a story on the Fourth of July program celebrated on Palomar Mountain including [56]:

> Mr. Harry Hill, Mrs. Sarah Requa and Mrs. Mary Kraemer gave readings that were warmly appreciated.

In her July 1919 journal, Elsie Roberts of Palomar's Planwydd resort wrote [34]:

> Went in machine with Jack to call on Mrs. Hill while he did errands. … George Mendenhall came to lunch and Mr. Hill to supper (spur of the moment). …

On December 2, 1919, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido published "Palomar Paragraphs" activities including [57]:

> "NELLIE, Nov. 29. -- … Mrs. Harry Hill was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Roberts, who had as other guests Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Hayes and Mrs. E.P. Burley and children. Harry Hill is in San Diego for a few days on business. …

On January 2, 1920, The Times-Advocate of Escondido published “Palomar Paragraphs” activities including [58]:

> NELLIE, Dec. 27. -- … A number of friends met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Roberts for Christmas dinner. They included Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hill, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bladen, William Beach and Robert Asher.

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> The Elmores traded off the Palomar place (the Cleaver property) for some Oceanside property. The new owner, a Mr. Smith, held it for a while and then sold to Harry and Mrs. Hill. The Hills had been in charge of Bailey's Lodge through the previous winter, and had been very anxious to obtain a permanent footing on the mountain. But the apple orchard did not prove to be just what they wanted, and Harry discovered that part of the Quigley Place was open for homestead entry. So the two of them decided to sell the Cleaver Place, if possible, and take up the homestead.
>
> After having made the decision to sell (the Cleaver property), Mrs. Hill suggested that Harry see Doctor Bailey; she had an idea that Bailey might be interested. But Harry happened to be at outs with Bailey at the moment and so refused to go and see the gentleman. So Mrs. Hill hiked over to the post office herself and put the matter up to Bailey. Milton was agreeable, and so the deal was closed. Mrs. Hill recently declared that Harry had had "a peeve on" at one time or another on most every person on the mountain except one Bob Asher.

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* about the Hills finding homestead entry land [1]:

> Later a crew of Government men looked over all of the government lands on the mountain for classification purposes. They passed by the 55 acres allowed Williams but classified everything else on this part of the mountain as non-enterable. Along about January 1920, Harry and Mrs. Hill decided that trying to make an apple orchard pay for itself was too much of an uphill sort of business for a retired couple, so Harry began looking around for a bit of government land but with no luck until he learned that the 55 acres on Quigley Hill was still open to homestead entry. The Hills thereupon promptly disposed of their interest in the Cleaver place to Milton Bailey and settled on the 55-acre claim under the three-year Residence Act.

In her January 1920 journal, Elsie Roberts of Palomar’s Planwydd resort wrote [34]:

> Mrs. Hill called. I always laugh when I think of Alice Hill. Sometimes we made mountain friends because of necessity and sometimes they were

> unique and fascinating individuals. Alice had toured with movie magnate Cecil DeMille. The story circulated that fifty dollars given her to buy a wedding gown she spent instead on a riding habit, tailor-made for her of a very beautiful material. Rather than washing her clothes, she would hang them on the clothesline for three weeks to air.

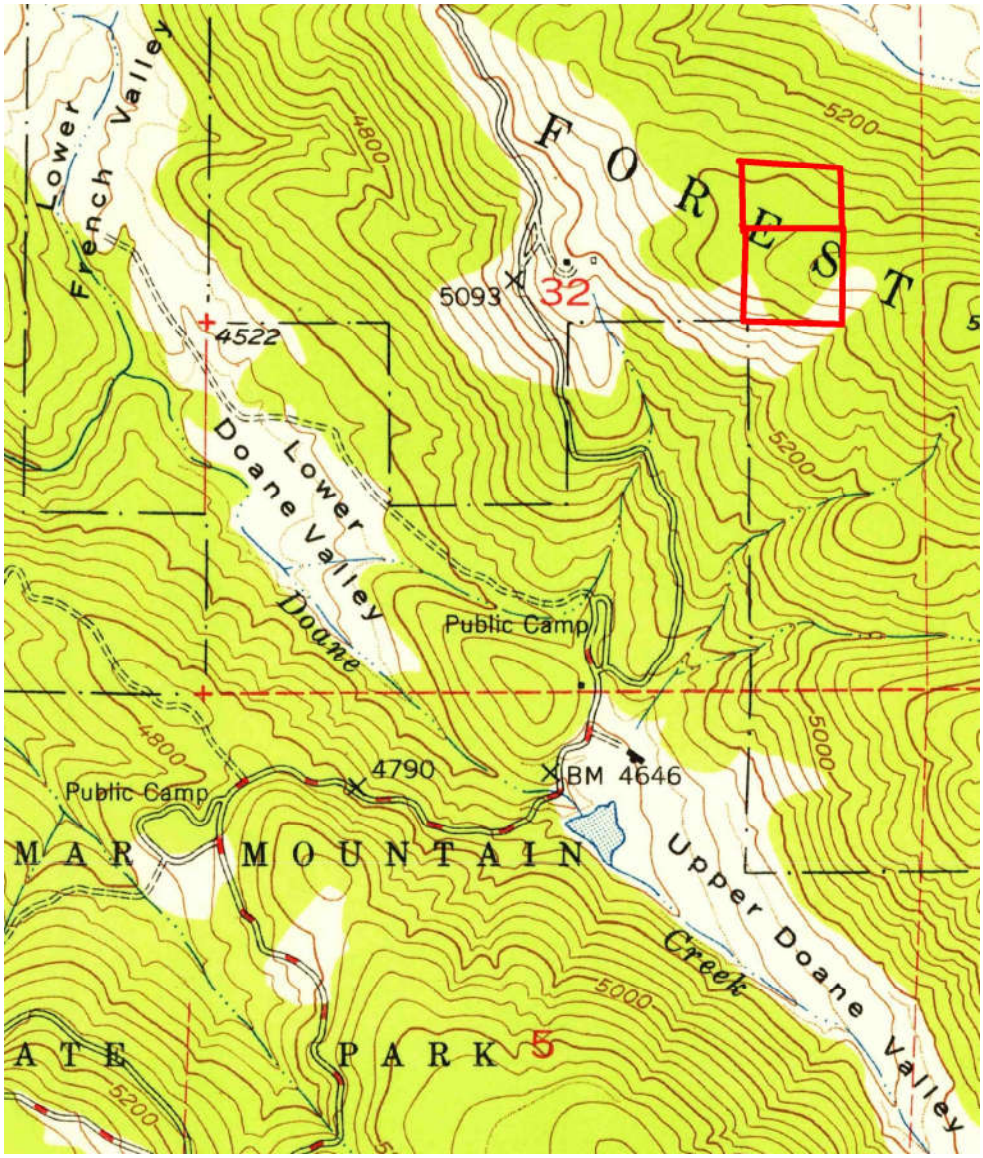
In her March 1920 journal, Elsie Roberts of Palomar's Planwydd resort wrote [34]:

> One of the cows got loose and Mrs. Hill and I trailed it to the Pedley place. Then I walked to Adams' place to tell Jack and drove back with him. … I repeatedly walked to the Hills to give the phone messages or to make a call.

On November 1, 1920, Harry E. Hill made a homestead entry on Palomar Mountain and filed a three year proof to establish claim to the land on January 14, 1925; it was granted in November 1925 [29,30]. The description of the property follows…

WHEREAS, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Los Angeles, California, has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress of May 20, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Harry E. Hill has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter, the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter, and the south half of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section thirty-two in Township nine south of Range one east of the San Bernardino Meridian, California, containing fifty-five acres,

and is outlined on the U.S.G.S 1948 Boucher Hill map



Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> Their first residence was a small tent with enough room for two cots but not much else. They cooked on a stove out in the open which was sometimes in the shade of a big black oak. I remember going up to the post office one foggy morning, or it was more like a light drizzle. After the mail had been distributed, someone inquired about Harry Hill. Harry had expected to be there that day. Several folks expressed a fear that something had gone wrong at the Hill's, so I offered to go up there on my way home. It was uphill, all right, and quite a bit out of my way but I had plenty of time. I found them both still in bed, and the water dripping down from the oak leaves above just like rain. The tent leaked in several places, and they had frying and stew pans, etc., placed to catch the drip. They actually thought it was still raining, so it was no use to get up because the stove was out in the storm.

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> Oh, yes -- what about those planks I took from the Susan Hayes Place (in Doane Valley)? Milton Bailey had bought the property from Mrs. Hayes but had no use for the buildings, so he traded them off to Harry Hill for a horse or something. Harry wrecked the buildings. Mrs. Hill had pulled the nails out of a lot of the planks and they had hauled several loads of the stuff up to their new home when a big rainstorm hit the mountain and the water washed out the road across the little creek just below the old Doane cabins.

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

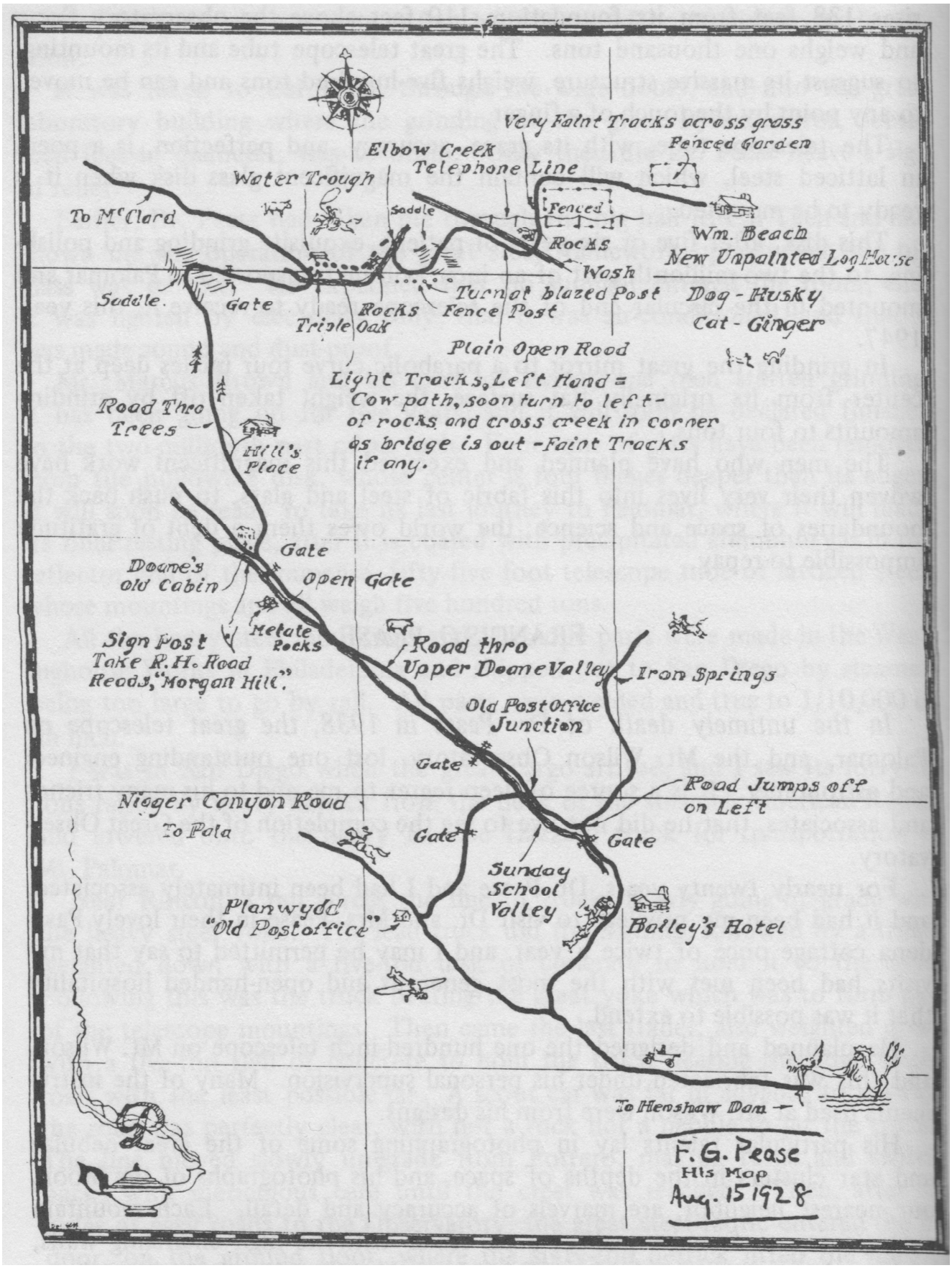
> They had a good team of horses, and they traded the use of the horses by the sawmill folks for lumber to build a house, which the two of them put up with little outside assistance.

The 1920 and 1930 U.S. Census lists Alice Lonnon Perkins married to Harry Hill, and living on Palomar. Harry Hill's occupation is fruit farmer in 1920 and farmer in 1930.

In her February 1921 journal, Elsie Roberts of Palomar's Planwydd resort wrote [34]:

> Jack (Roberts) went down the grade (Nate Harrison Grade) with Mr. Hill to bring back our new wagon and disc. …

The Hill's house appears on astronomer Francis Gladheim Pease's 1928 Palomar map which he drew in planning the upcoming Palomar Observatory on William Beach's land.



On March 1, 1932, the Daily Times-Advocate published [31]:

> AUTOGYRO WAS SEEN IN ESCONDIDO MONDAY
>
> Residents of the east section of the valley reported to the Times-Advocate Monday that they witnessed the autogyro airplane, which has been in San Diego, flying over Escondido about 4 o'clock Monday afternoon. This is probably the first time that a plane of such type has been over this valley. It is said that the "windmill" plane flew to Palomar Mountain to obtain a passenger who had been snowbound there for quite a long time at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hill. No confirmation of this report has been received.

**Pitcairn autogyro NC-12681 at St. Hubert, Quebec. Aug. 19, 1932** [32]

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> … Mrs. Hill's uncle, Tom Pilkington, and his two daughters, Josephine and (Elsie), were with her for a year. Uncle Tom was getting pretty well along in years but not in spirit. One Sunday morning when I went up there, Mrs. Hill was worried to death over Uncle Tom. It seems that Uncle Tom had concluded that some damaged and hanging limbs on the big oak tree below the house should be amputated, so he had climbed the tree and was busy sawing away at a limb before Mrs. Hill knew what he was up to. Afterwards

> he did a great deal of rock work, handling some rocks that would have stalled many a younger man. The girls and his niece would warn him against overdoing himself but he kept on taking chances and meeting with minor mishaps, then he tackled the biggest ever; a big boulder sticking out from the edge of a bank. The boulder slipped down quicker than he calculated and caught his foot. That put uncle out of circulation for quite a time but he came back just as keen for punishment as ever. However, when the year's time was up, he seemed to be glad to get back to his San Anselmo home.

Alice Lonnon Perkins Hill's uncle was Thomas James Pilkington (1852-1934), and his children were Josephine (1882-1969) and Elsie Victoria (1890-1943). In his *My Palomar* memoir, Asher wrote "Josephine and Gladys" but in his diary he wrote "Josephin and Elsie" in a diary entry dated April 22, 1933 [1,35]. Gladys Pilkington was a cousin of Josephine.

Robert Asher kept a diary which is incomplete for his span of years. Asher mentions the Hills many times in his diaries, with more substantial mentions following. In an entry on April 30, 1933, Robert Asher wrote [35]:

> Sunday. April 30. More rain last night. None today. Mostly cloudy. Some fog early. Breakfast and dinner at Hill's. Mrs. H. (Hill) and Miss J.P. (Josephine Pilkington) rode over to Bailey's for mail and supplies. They had not been able to get out during the storm. First thing in the morning they had a perfectly gorgeous time trying to get the kitchen stove started – wood all wet! They had had plenty of wood stowed away for the winter up to now -- but this last storm caught them shy of wood. Uncle Tom had been busy chopping falled limbs into short lengths and had put them up in little piles along the road for Gus (Weber) to haul in – but Gus had been too busy to do the hauling. …

In an entry on May 4, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [35]:

> Sunday. May 4. …. Hot cakes at Hill's. Also dinner. Folks all O.K. – but pestered with wet wood again! Storm caught them short once more! They had to saddle up old Blue and pack some in. And their water system had gone back on them. Eddie Lyon (who worked for Gus Weber and lived at the Webers) came over and played the role of plumber and his three assistants just before the storm. Two of the "cut-offs" caused all the trouble – cut-offs smaller than the main pipe, and much had accumulated above them – 10 or 12 inches solid plugs of mud! …

In an entry on May 21, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [35]:

> Sunday. May 21. … At Hill's the three Pilkingtons were all right, but Mrs. (Alice) Hill was suffering from a cold – had had it since last Monday! It was

reported that Gus Weber also had a cold which had been hanging on for a month. … The Webers and Mrs Hill have been sticking persistently and faithfully to the Brawn Diet. It's surely funny – why should Brawn-Diet folks have colds when rank back-sliders like the Pilkingtons, living in the same house with Mrs. Hill, go scott free? But maybe they'll have it yet. The Hill Ranch has a supply of compressed gas once more. So now only the big heater burns a great plenty – if you will listen to Uncle Tom. Harry (Hill) used to say the same thing. A little rain coming down about 2 P.M. At 3 P.M. it commenced in earnest. I figured that if I wanted to get home without swimming I had better get going pronto. Mrs Hill found a big piece of heavy wrapping-paper in the attic and rigged me up in it. Another piece was pinned over my head. Then I beat it for home…

**Charles A. Brawn**, undated

The **Brawn Diet** refers to Charles A. Brawn, who owned a cabin on property next door to the west of Gus and Marian Weber. Charles Alwin Brawn (1886-1962) was born Charles Alwin Bergdoll and was in the wealthy family owning the Louis Bergdoll and Sons Brewing Co., in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He changed his last name to Brawn due to the notoriety of his two WWI draft dodging brothers, and moved to Vista, California for health reasons [36,37]. In April 1932, Brawn moved his family to Palomar Mountain, and then in 1934, moved to Valley Center.

About the Brawn Diet, Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> As I remember it, the high points in the Brawn diet was abstinence from manufactured sugars, from salt, from all forms of starchy foods, and from alcoholic liquors, tea and coffee. Brawn had studied up on Iridiagnosis and so could tell all about you from an inspection of your eyes. He gave me the works and decided that I was of the calcium type -- also that I had too much sulfur in my system. But neither of us could figure out where the sulfur had come from. He suggested that I might have got it from using too much bread made from bleached white flour. But I countered by saying that I used very little white flour in the kind of bread I made. He tested my heart pressure but that seemed to be normal. After getting home I looked over my store of eatables and it did seem as though every last item was in the banned list he had given me. Brawn's idea was that I should go on the diet to avert attacks of hay fever. But I concluded that I would take the hay fever if hay fever I must have, rather than starve to death by inches. In place of cane or beet sugar he advised me to use honey; but honey makes me deathly sick and I told him so. "So much more the reason for dieting -- if honey makes you so sick, that's an evidence that your system is full of poison. The honey sickness is just the poison working its way out of your system." We had an argument over salt. I asked how about the cattle over in French Valley. Nature tells them that they need salt and they don't do so well if they don't have plenty of salt handy to lick. "Just so", commented Brawn, "but cattle are on a different plane from mankind." I threw up my hands. "What can you do with a man like that?"

In an entry on May 28, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [35]:

> Sunday. May 28. … To Hill's as usual. All O.K. Mrs Hill has practically recovered from the effects of her cold. Joshed her a bit about the Brawn Diet. The Brawn Diet was supposed to eliminate susceptibility to such things as colds and hay fever. She said that Mr. Brawn had explained it by saying that it was something already in her system that was being eliminated. A sort of hangover from previous mistaken dieting habits – sugars and starches and everything that's nice – eh what? …

In an entry on June 11, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [35]:

> Sunday. … Mrs. Hill offered me the use of Old Blue – "but not on mail days." Uncle Tom still unable to stand on his injured foot. The women folks get him into a rocking chair – and then pull the rocker around like a sled. I left him on the porch enjoying the view. …

In an entry on July 11, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [35]:

> Tuesday, July 11. … Had a long wait for Mrs Hill and my two-weeks mail. Mrs Hill said that she was expecting to go down next Monday for a week's visit. Wanted me to look after ranch – Uncle Tom and the girls had gone home to San Anselmo during my absence. …

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> Harry was busy and interested in the new home for several years, then began to get restless after a hard winter or two and suggested getting a place somewhere below. He dug up one prospect near the south foot of the mountain and took Mrs. Hill down to look it over, but I think they both decided against it. At any rate, Mrs. Hill's health was a consideration; she was afraid life at a lower altitude would bring on the asthma attacks again so they stayed with the homestead -- that is, she did.
>
> Harry went up to the hills of Fresno and fell in love with a 40-acre tract there which he contracted to buy, then he came home and tried to persuade Mrs. Hill to go there, but nothing doing.
>
> So Harry stepped out, taking his pet prize rooster, pedigreed hens, and the hot-cake griddle. He landed at the Happy Mendenhall home near his 40 acres and lived there for a number of years, returning to Palomar and the Hill ranch for one winter while he held down the job of custodian of the Palomar State Park. When the CCC boys came back, he was let out. [Happy Mendenhall is Edward Thomas "Hap" Mendenhall, 1888-1975. Married to Olive Christine Peerless, 1897-1975]

In an entry on August 20, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [38]:

> Sunday. Aug. 20. … At Hill's for breakfast and dinner. … Something kept me awake most of the night and got into the waffles Mrs Hill gave me. Mrs Hill was expecting Olive Mendenhall to let her know soon whether Harry would be coming back this fall. … Mrs Hill helped me out with some flour. She said that a rattlesnake is making its headquarters under the Himalaya Berry bushes. She has killed two since I was there two weeks ago. …

In an entry on September 10, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [38]:

> Sunday. Sept. 10. … Took two finished pictures with me to Hill's. Mrs Hill much pleased with them. Had a great time shifting the other pictures around to make room for the new-comers. George Mendenhall and friend only visitors for day. George generally noncommittal about my stuff, but I rather think he liked the new pictures. When I was leaving Mrs Hill handed me "a

> bit of paper to put away in a safe place." Ten dollars on pictures purchased account, which will be a big help. …

In an entry on September 17, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [38]:

> Sunday. Sept. 17. … Took three finished canvasses up to Hill's. Miss Belle Fanton is at Hill's and may stay for months if Mrs Hill has her way. …

Robert Asher's list of his paintings owned by Alice Hill [2]:

Pictures Painted by R.h.Asher belonging to Alice L.P.hill.

---

A: Mesa Grande -- yellow swale -- poplar tree at left -- Powam Lodge pump house l. c. trees and brush dotted slopes beyond. A left glimpse of blue ridge -- pale sky. 12 x 16.

AB:C.Mesa Grande. Big rock at right --rocky brushy foreground -- trees -- and distant glimpses of peaks and wooded slopes -- blue peak center back -- cloudy sky. 12 x 16.

B: Mesa Grande. Boles of two trees shading foreground ---- brushy or wooded draw -- wood dotted hills beyond -- glimpse of pale sky. 12 x 16.

D: "Haloed Trees" in cedar bark frame. Tall grass i re- ground -- grassy slope to knoll center and up to [illegible] Trees at top of knoll throwing heavy shade and [illegible] t[illegible] sun -- haloed green beyond two wooded [illegible] ridge to right break against [illegible] green sky.

E: Pine killed by pine beetles -- against green trees and sky flecked with white wisps of cloud. 40 x 34.

F: Crayon sketch of road andtrees at Bailey's. 10 x14.

G: Crayon of hill cabin from fern patch. 9 x 12.

H: Green floor of valley after rain. Big yellow tree on left -- sky reflected in water center -- bit of rocky slope at right --green yellow and orange colored trees along swale and at back green ridge against cloudy sky. 12 x 16.

I: Parched foreground -- bare sycamore at left -- green trees at right -- green alfalfa patch in middle distance -- trees -- yellow,tan, and gray ridges beyond -- steep and rocky against pale sky. 22 x 30.

J: Tunnel through the lilac on road to top of French Valley hill. 16 x 14.

K: Path trough grassy opening -- past rose thicket -- trees beyond -- green ridges -- blue ridges -- greeney-blue sky.18x2 18 x 24.

L: "Lark Meadow." Green with yellow drifts of flowers -- fence across foreground. hills beyond with scattered clumps of trees -- blue peak left -- ridge beyond -- sky full of thunder heads. 22 x 30.

M: Long vista of Doane Valley -- pines each side -- wooded ridge against pale sky. 16 x 20.

N: "Wind." Brushy ledge -- pale ridges against storm clouds -- two tall slim trees in foreground blown by wind.7 1/ 7 1/2 x 10.

O: Foreground little stream -- steep cut banks right and part ly seen left -- willows beyond -- then conifers -- and a wooded ridge against a dark gray-blue sky. 12 x 16.

(2) Pictures by Asher belonging to Mrs. Hill.

---

P: "March of the Giants." Odd shaped trees marching across grassy meadow -- wooded ridge to right. Blue San Miguel against cloudy sunset sky. 22 x 30.

Q: Woodland with glimpses of grass opening in center. In the right center the bole of the tree is red. 14 x 18.

R: Big rocks in right foreground -- yellow trees left --- conifers right -- glimpses of meadow in between -- tree clad ridges to strip of cloudy sky. 14 x 18.

S: Frenchman's Cabin in Lower French Valley -- a sunset picture with long shadow to foreground from cabin. Rocks left -- trees right -- wooded ridge at back against wall-ish sky.

T: Wide grassy swale, part of ~~big~~ tree l.c. -- rock and tree r.c. -- scattered trees edgeing distance outlined against blue ridge. Cloudy blue sky -- all clouds pink under side -- purple above in blue evening sky.

U: Rock, point with three bare trees touched by sunlight-- in distance left hand woody ridge blue -- right hand ridge scattered trees and sunlit -- far ridges misty -- sky pale yellowish. 22 x 30.

V: Yellow point -- big sycamore left bending over rocks center -- blueish ridge -- with yellow road -- sky blue-- everything very springlike in color and suggestion. 12 x 16.

W: Big trees framing a sunlit meadow with cabin at far edge backed by high wooded ridges -- wee glimpse of pale sky. 14 x 18.

X: Doane Valley in Fall -- yellow trees at left -- green and yellow trees each side of shadow striped grass and gray rocks. In distance canyon up Morgan Hill -- sunlit in ridges -- fall foliage -- glimpse of cloudy sky. 12 x 16.

Y: Brushy green foreground looking across ridges to Salton Sea and ridges beyond. 9 x 13.

Z: Post card picture of Doane Valley painted in oils.

O.K. Foregoing correct. June 26, 1939.

Robert H. Asher.

In an entry on November 10, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his transcribed diary [38]:

> Friday. Nov. 10. … Saw Bill Beach loading wood on his truck to take up to Hill's. Mrs Beach on the Brawn Diet. But not Bill! He said that Harry Hill's pension has been cut to $15.00 per month. Harry may be back soon – presumably for the winter. …

In an entry on November 10, 1933, Robert Asher wrote differently in his original handwritten diary [43]:

> Friday. Nov. 10. … Bill Beach loading wood in his truck for Mrs. Hill. Bill says Mrs Beach on the Brawn diet. But not Bill. Says Harry Hill may be back. Pension cut to $15 per month. If Mrs Hill wants him. I certainly hope he comes. …

In an entry on November 10, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [38]:

> Sunday. Nov. 19. … Up to Hill's. Harry may not come home after all. Olive Mendenhall will board him at their Fresno County ranch for $10.00 per month provided Harry builds cabin and lives there on his own forty acre place. I think he has lumber for the cabin already on the ground. …

In an entry on November 26, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [38]:

> Sunday. Nov. 26. … Had dizzy spell before starting for Hill's – and while there – so passed up dinner. … Mrs Hill handed me some cold waffles to take home with me – and she warned me to be sure to notice the little "billet-doux" in with the waffles. The billet-doux proved to be another ten-dollar check on picture account. I had made a special inducement for sale of pictures this fall. If a person bought one picture for cash I agreed to put in another of equal free gratis for nothing. Since this offer was made Mrs Hill has made two ten dollar payments on the old picture account – real money. Therefore I credit her with $40.00 on account. $131.00 less $40.00 equals $91.00 – amount still due – and I am not asking for any of that – and if I pass there is nothing due my estate.

In an entry on December 1, 1933, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [38]:

> Friday. Dec. 1. … Mrs Hill had offered me the use of Old Blue, so after breakfast I decided to go up and get him. … Had dinner at Hill's – cold turkey and beef steak. Harry Hill had written that his old tires were about done – needed money for new tires before would care to tackle mountain roads. Mrs Hill sent what she could spare and now hopes he will finally decide to come. …

Marian Weber, Eugene Leslie Lawler Jr., Louisa Brawn, **Alice Lonnon Perkins Hill,**
Nyla Elizabeth Brown Lawler, Belle (friend)
likely at Alice Hill's house, c1933

Gaylene Eisenach photo

**Marian Weber and King Tut at Alice Hill's house, undated** Gaylene Eisenach photo

Alice Lonnon Perkins Hill's brother Philip Joseph Perkins lost his wife Edwina on July 5, 1921. In an entry on March 20, 1934, Robert Asher, located in El Cajon at the time, wrote in his diary [39]:

> Mar. 20. Wednesday. Letter from Mrs. Hill. Harry Hill can come for me only after he gets his pension money, April 6th or later. He has given his rabbits to Mr Brawn. Mrs Hill is expecting her brother Dr. Philip Perkins. Phil sick, just out of hospital. All of his property has been foreclosed. He has been having a pretty tough time of it. …

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> In the meantime, Mrs. Hill had arranged for her brother, Philip, to come and make his home on the Hill ranch. Harry drove down to Oceanside and brought Phil back, then immediately hit the trail for Fresno County. Philip Perkins had been in a hospital for many months preceding his coming to Palomar and was in pretty bad shape physically, but he too was a natural-born worker and it was not long until he began emulating Uncle Tom's example, but within reason of course.

In an entry on March 25, 1934, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [43]:

> Sunday. Mar. 25. … Harry (Hill) arrived with Phil (Perkins) about noon. Happy Mendenhall had had an accident. Broken leg and crushed heel. Harry packed up after dinner and started for Happy's, intending to go down Forest Service Road to Aguanga. He had intended to stay until May, but they needed him there, so he went. …

In an entry on April 8, 1934, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [43]:

> Sunday. April 8. … To Hill's for waffles and the day. Phil seems a good deal better. We signed the visitor's book -- and he gave his residence as Palomar Mountain. So I hope he is a fixture here. …

In an entry on May 18, 1934, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [39]:

> May 18. Friday. … Got to Hills before folks finally got up. Had waffles for breakfast as usual. Phil just off a straight orange diet, but can't have waffles yet. Maybe next Sunday. Brawn's orders! …

In an entry on May 20, 1934, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [43]:

> Sunday May 20. … At Hill's for waffles and dinner. Phil, who has been on orange fruit fast for 3 ½ weeks, had waffles too. …

In an entry on June 17, 1934, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [43]:

> Sunday. June 17. … To Hill's for day (3 "days" in a row!) Am to go up at noon Friday. Dinner in celebration of Phil's 65th birthday.

In an entry on June 22, 1934, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [43]:

> Friday. June 22. … Started about 9:30 a.m. for Hills. Made two outline sketches of live oak trees on way up, but too much wind to sit long in a place. So got to Hill's early. Miss Belle Fanton there with Peter, her dog. … Mr. and Mrs. Brawn, Bill and Maryann Beach, Mrs Ricketts and the two boys for dinner. Mr Brawn brought along a bottle of "apple wine." Somebody dug up some regular wine glasses. But not beside my plate. But Mrs B. offered notwithstanding my "no thank you." Well, now I have less confidence than ever in Mr Brawn as a dietician. Bye the way, I think this is the first time I have ever been at a dinner wine or any other liquor was served – except possibly once or twice cider. And as far as the Hill Ranch is concerned – another time or two will be enough – I'll not feel like going

there any more. But – it is quite possible that the whole thing was a joke – the "apple-wine" simply a little grape juice and water. …

In a diary entry on July 22, 1934, Asher writes [43]:

> Sunday July 22. … Hill's for waffles and dinner. Phil and Mrs Hill rode over to Bailey's to attend meeting called by Dr Bailey to consider fire-protection matters. Mr Brawn drove in with Bill Beach and offered to take me along, but I did not care to go – especially with these two. I had been told that Bill Beach had been circulating a petition to have Gus Weber fired from Forest Service, and that Brawn was back of it. One pretext was that Gus was not a citizen. Mrs Hill says that Gus was prevented from going to get 2nd papers 3 times – twice on account of pressing Forest Service work, and once on account of deep snows. And that now, he will have to make a fresh start by taking out 1st papers. Don Gordon went up to Weber's yesterday, stopping in at Hill's. There is to be a meeting of all in county interested in effective fire-protection with Co. Supervisors next Monday at 10 a.m. Mrs Hill expects to go down with the Brawns. There were about 16 at Bailey's today at the Bailey meeting.

In a diary entry on August 17, 1934, Robert Asher wrote [43]:

> Friday. Aug. 17. … Harry Hill came along about 11 a.m. riding and leading Old Blue (the Hill's horse). Had just arrived home day before yesterday. Wanted me up for dinner, but I had already dined – on beans mostly – so couldn't eat anything. Then all four of us in Harry's car made the rounds – driving first down Rainbow Drive through the burnt-off district as far as Cedar Crest Creek. Then back up to Camp Sites, visiting a few minutes at Mrs Murrays, then to Shupe's. Mrs. S. there only. After that back down hill to Uncle Tom's for gas. Then to Judsons. Mrs. J. there, but not Mr. Got some apples for the two apple pies Mrs Hill promised to make. Then down to Lower Doane where I was dropped. Forget to say, that one way up to Hills on Blue and Grace, that Harry and I stopped for a few minutes at Park Headquarters. Stanford not there but I introduced Harry to Mr. Brant and Mr. Smith. Smith took Harry down to Army H.Q. to meet the captain. …

In a diary entry on August 19, 1934, Robert Asher wrote [43]:

> Sunday. Aug. 19. … Began to rain just as I arrived at Hill's. … Had apple pie for dinner. Mrs Hill none. Phil ¼ of a pie, Harry ¼ + 1/8. Bob ¼. …

In a diary entry on August 20, 1934, Robert Asher wrote [42]:

> … Mrs Hill had told me about her stunt in the chicken house where she nearly drownded (sic) a marauding civet cat. …

In a diary entry on August 26, 1934, Robert Asher wrote [43]:

> Sunday. Aug 26. … I was to be at foot of Morgan Hill grade at 4:30 p.m. so Don (Gordon) could pick me up. Which I did and he did, and dropped me off at my mail box. … We met Harry Hill near top of hill cutting a walking cane, it looked like. I yelled "Good bye" to Harry. Thought Don was going to stop, but he didn't. Don explained that he didn't know who it was until we were opposite – and Harry was on my side of the road. Hope Harry doesn't take offence. (Gus and Marian) Weber's so bitter against Harry, that Don may have imbibed something of that feeling.

In a diary entry on September 9, 1934, Robert Asher wrote [43]:

> Sunday. Sept. 9. … To Hill's for waffles. Harry, Phil and Mrs. H. No visitors. Harry expecting to return north for 2 weeks soon. … Harry getting water from Spring in Lower French Valley at trough. All 3 came down in car with me … I invited bunch to have picnic down here (Asher's Yellow Pine Camp) after Harry's return …

In a diary entry on October 23, 1934, Robert Asher wrote [42]:

> … Harry Hill is to be care-taker at the (CCC) camp for the winter. He is to get $35.00 per month salary. …

In an entry on November 4, 1934, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [39]:

> Nov. 4. Sunday. To Hill's for day. Mrs Hill, Harry Hill and Phil Perkins all well. Mrs. Hill expects to go with Peggy McNally to San Diego and Los Angeles toward the end of the week. She will bring back the winters supplies of groceries, etc. Peggy is to haul four tons of hay from Louis Salmons on Wednesday. Mrs. Hill seems to be throwing quite a bit of business Peggy's way.

In an entry on April 21, 1935, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [39]:

> April 21. Sunday. To Hill Ranch for day. Mrs. Hill and Philip both well. Harry Hill had left for the north ten days before, not having waited for the C.C.C. personnel to arrive. …

In an entry on May 12, 1935, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [39]:

> May 12. Sunday. To Hill's for day. All well there. They have fenced in Harry's abandoned Oldsmobile and are planting little gardens around it. Three of the C.C.C. boys come up once or twice a week, and they cut enough to keep the wood stove going. Mrs Hill "fills them up" with fresh milk. …

In a diary entry on June 30, 1935, Robert Asher wrote [44]:

> June 30. Sunday. … To Hill's for day. Don Gordon, his niece, a Miss Johnson and Mr. Crane arrived in time for waffles. Don brought along drilling outfit and rigged it. Hole in about 3 ft. and some water coming. Don & co went on up to his place on Morgan Hill. …

In a diary entry on July 7, 1935, Robert Asher wrote [44]:

> Sunday. July 7. … To Hill's for day. … Both Phil and Mrs H. well. Phil is in 31 ft on water drilling. 1000 gallons per 24 hrs. already. Has been in clay formation last four feet. May strike more water behind clay. …

In a diary entry on July 14, 1935, Robert Asher wrote [44]:

> Sunday. July 14. … Left Weber's at 3 P.M. Came by Hill's. Phil has drilled in about 45 feet. Mrs Hill has written to Burnham re Brawn Weber affair. (George Burnham, 20th congressional district representative in the U.S. Congress, for Imperial and San Diego counties) …

In a diary entry on July 21, 1935, Robert Asher wrote [44]:

> Sunday, July 21. … To Hill's for day…. Bread + vegs. … [Asher picked up this mail at Alice Hill's house and left his outgoing mail with her.] … Also the letter to Congressman George Burnham. Both Phil and Mrs Hill read letter, and were pleased with it. …

In a diary entry on September 8, 1935, Robert Asher wrote [44]:

> Sunday. Sept 8. … To Weber's for day. Mrs Gus + Eddie O.K. Gus at Oak Grove Ranger Station as "Fireman" under Haywood. Expect to be home overnight tomorrow. Peggy McNally drove over P.M. Brawn has been after Senator McAdoo to get Gus fired is the latest. Peggy wanted some info from Gus. Expects to see Ed Kelly Chairman Democratic Central Committee (I think that's it) to get in touch with McAdoo. I rode back with her as far as Hill's. The McNally's are building a new house. One room 35 X 19 feet. At

> Hill's got mail, bread, butter etc. Mrs Fred Cooper's sister there with small boy. …

In a diary entry on September 21, 1935, Robert Asher wrote [44]:

> Saturday Sept 21. … Made an entry for "Camay" Slogan Contest. "Any way – Just Camay – Keeps your beauty All the day." …

In a diary entry on September 22, 1935, Robert Asher wrote [44]:

> Sept 22. Sunday. Spr. Hill. … To Hill's for day. … Changed my Camay entry to: -- "Any day Just Camay Keeps your beauty Fresh and gay!" Mrs Hill thought this better than the other one. She is going to San Diego Tuesday and Wednesday. I gave her $1. She is to buy 3 Camay and include wrappers with my entry. She and Phil both have entrys. …

In a diary entry on December 12, 1935, Robert Asher wrote [44]:

> Thursday. Dec 12. S.Y. (San Ysidro) … Letter from Mrs Hill. Heavy post hit Phil's foot. Gus at home. Brawn set fire without permit. Bob McNalley called on him. Brawn insulting. McNally told him to tell it to the Sheriff. Sheriff hasn't been able to find Brawn yet. Mrs. H. (Hill) says he may be hiding out at home. If Tilly is the dep. Sheriff after Brawn, don't fancy he will be overly anxious to find Brawn.

In a diary entry on January 10, 1936, Robert Asher wrote [44]:

> Friday. Jan. 10. S.Y. (San Ysidro) … Letter from Mrs Hill. … Mr Brawn was finally arrested and fined $50. He appealed. His mountain place is in his mother's name. The valley place in his daughter's. Don was over at Hill's over Christmas and one night. Hill's had 13 guests at Christmas dinner. … Belle Fanton visiting Mrs Hill. …

In a diary entry on January 10, 1936, Robert H. Asher wrote [44]:

> Monday. Jan 20. S.Y. (San Ysidro)… List from Camay Contest of prize-winners. R.H.A not in it. 136 winners from Calif. – more than from any other state.

In an entry on April 19, 1936, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [39]:

> April 19. Sunday. To Hill Ranch for day. Mr. and Mrs. St. John arrived in time to help Phil and Bob (Asher) stow away the waffles.

In an entry on April 26, 1936, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [39]:

> April 26. Sunday. To Hill's for day. Mr. St. John up in time for waffles. Phil had been suffering from an aching tooth. So St. John pulled it out with one of Phil's dental forceps. …

In an entry on August 25, 1936, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [44]:

> Sunday Aug 25. … To Hill's for day. Mrs McNally left $8.65 in change. 4 loaves bread. Visitors over week end are Mr + Mrs George Stone of Carmel. Mrs S. is Cousin May, who is sister of late Cousin Madge (Mrs Hill's cousins) I took up two good sized pictures and two smaller ones. Smaller ones did not seem to quite click. Stones seemed to be well pleased with most of my work. He took Josie's address (Asher's sister) in case he decides to work up a stock of his flower studies.

In an entry on May 10, 1936, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [44]:

> Sunday. May 10. ... To Hill's for waffles. ... Don Gordon with 2 lady friends on way to Webers and his own place. ... Gus (Weber) came to take Mrs H. (Hill) Phil (Perkins) + Bob (Asher) up to picnic dinner at Don's (Gordon). Harry Utley, Mrs Gus (Weber) and Eddie Lyon also. After lunch Gus went over to Morgan Hill to phone. Took Bob, Harry (Hill), Phil and Eddie along. ...

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> At this writing, February, 1939, Phil is still staying with old Palomar and so deserves more than a passing word in this chronicle. Phil's mother was an admirer of King Philip of France. Phil's father's name was Joseph, hence Phil's whole name, Philip Joseph Perkins. At one time Joseph (Day) Perkins had charge of a mine in the Owens River country (California). Henry G. Hanks had charge of another mine in the mountains across the river. The Indians were sometimes on the warpath those days, so Perkins and Hanks had a system of signaling back and forth in case of attack on either side. An attack came on Hanks' side, but Perkins was already on his way over so the system was not put to the great test.
>
> As may be surmised, Joseph (Day) Perkins and Henry Hanks were great chums. Charlotte Pilkington and Ella Barker were also chums. Perkins had been going with Charlotte and the time came when he wanted his friend Henry to meet the sweetest girl in the world -- Miss Pilkington. So he asked the sweetest girl's permission to bring along his friend on the next visit. Charlotte granted the desired permission, but, overcome by the prospect of

two men visitors at once, she invited her friend, Ella Barker (Ellen Francis Barker), to be on hand on the evening arranged. Henry fell in love with Ella at first sight and they were married before Joseph got around to leading his Charlotte to the altar.

Henry G. Hanks is Henry Garber Hanks (1826-1907).

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> Philip (Perkins) was born in San Francisco, June 22, 1869. At one time he was a surveyor. He was apprenticed to a watchmaker in New York City. This watchmaker had something like seventy inventions to his credit. Mrs. Hill once remarked, "So Philip came honestly by his handling of dainty dentist's tools," but we are coming to that. He went through high school, studied pharmacy, was first in a drug store, then went to Dental College and was practicing dentistry when the Spanish War broke out. He had been in the United States Signal Corps for nine years. Was a telegrapher, and was a member of Signal Corps National Guard, captain of his company, the regiment had 10 commissioned officers and 30 sergeants. The second call found 18 companies of 50 men each in the Signal Corps. He had enlisted in the 1st company first, then in the last the 19th, commissioned as lieutenant, then advanced to captain. He saw 16 months of service in the Philippines, got seasick going over but not on the return voyage.

**Philip Joseph Perkins, 1897**

**Philip Joseph Perkins and Robert Asher, undated** Gaylene Eisenach photo

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> As for life on Palomar Mountain, I can best give you Philip's own words, "Came to recuperate from serious illness, like it, so stay trying to make self useful as well as ornamental."

In a letter dated July 24, 1937, Robert Asher writes to his sister Josie Vacher [59]:

> … The Hill's have a very lovely garden – full of color right now. Mrs Hill's brother Phil – is chief gardener, and now has as assistant his 14-year-old daughter Phyllis. Phyllis is going to school at Baileys. …

Edward H. Davis wrote about Alice Hill in his memoir *Palomar and the Stars* [3]:

> A very delightful, more recent resident of Palomar is Alice Hill, who lives with her brother in a cozy cottage far up the slope of one of those high rolling hills, above Doane Valley. Mrs. Hill was a beautiful actress in former years, tall, blue-eyed, with golden hair. She has travelled the world over, from Australia to Peking, finally coming to rest on Palomar, like a homing pigeon. Her home is a museum of natural formations and works of art. Many of Robert Asher's paintings adorn her walls. The outlook from her cottage is superb reaching from her native pines and firs, down sweeping slopes to distant valleys and blue mountains, to Catalina Island and the far Pacific. This view, ever-changing from dawn to dusk, is one of the compensations for living in high places. Mrs. Hill is a woman of great taste and accomplishments, who could adorn any society. She is endowed with a delightful personality.

By 1938, Harry Hill is no longer listed at Palomar Mountain in the *San Diego Directory Company's San Diego (California) City Directory 1938 including Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, El Cajon, Escondido, La Jolla, La Mesa, National City, Oceanside, and All Other Towns and Postoffices Throughout the County* (San Diego: San Diego Directory Co., 1938).

In the 1940 U.S. Census, Alice Lonnon Perkins is recorded as divorced and living with her brother Dr. A. Perkins on Palomar.

In an entry on August 24, 1941, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [45]:

> Aug. 24. Sunday. … To Hill's for day. Mrs Hankinson was there, but left for Long Beach before noon. Gus (Weber) was over with mail, and groceries for Mrs. Hill. … Gus helping Phil with big engine. They were still at it 4 P.M. Mrs. Hill gave me some coleus cuttings. …

In a diary entry on August 28, 1941, Robert Asher wrote [47]:

> Aug 28. Thursday. To Hill Ranch for late dinner – began about 10 P.M. Mr and Mrs Byron Hill from the Observatory, Gus and Mrs Weber, Eddie Lyon, Nyla and Nylene Lawler, and Bob Asher.

In an entry on August 31, 1941, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [45]:

> Aug.31. Sunday. SHC. (Spruce Hill Camp) … To Hill's for the day. … Mrs Fred Cooper, her daughter, Mrs. Shirk, and Mrs Shirk and Mrs Shirk's son Bobbie arrived at waffle time. …

In an entry on September 2, 1941, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [45]:

> Sept. 2. Tuesday. SHC (Spruce Hill Camp). … To Hill's 4 P.M. Thursday. Late supper again – the Hills and Weber's – but no Byron H. To Hill's on Sept 11 and again on the 14th. …

In an entry on September 21, 1941, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [45]:

> Sept. 21. Sunday. SHC (Spruce Hill Camp). … To Hill's for day. … Gus Weber and Eddie Lyon were over to help Phil with water pipes between the Hill house and the upper spring, preparatory to installing the 2000 gallon steel tank they fetched up from Escondido yesterday. The old rock curbed spring hole was not holding enough water for all household and garden purposes. …

Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> Many people have expressed wonderment that a woman of Mrs. Hill's antecedents could be content to live as she does in such a lonely spot so far removed from all the advantages of civilization, to which for so many years she had been accustomed. In the first place, the mountain has a way of getting hold of people -- certain people. They love it. They prefer to endure the hardships for the sake of the pleasure of just living in such a place. In the second place, if she went to live at a lower altitude, the asthma would get her. In the third place -- well, I am sure Mrs. Hill will not object to my quoting from a recent letter:
>
> "We have wished several times you were here to see the remarkable sunsets and strange colorings and light effects that we're having this winter. Then the ice storms have made the trees and brush whiter than I have seen them before. We are and have been snowed in for some time. Even when the snow was all melted here, the French Valley hill was impassable. The Webers have

been coming as far as the crossroads in the auto and walking the rest of the way. Of course the Park Road is non est. We've had very little wind so Phil has had to drag the battery down to the pump on a sled and charge it a bit so we could run the radio. Have heard some very good programs. The cow still hangs on but does not improve. Have heard of a new vet who thinks he can cure her but he can't get in to see her until the road is open. Phil sends his regards and says he will write to you shortly himself. He finds the exertion of doing chores in the snow pretty exhausting, so hasn't had much pep for letter writing. The pipes all froze up one day, but a day of sunshine and a dose of hot water cleared everything up. That lovely spell of weather we had brought the pussy willows out and I have a couple of bunches in the cabin, but I expect they are all frozen now. Next day noon: Stormed all night and so far all day. The windcharger is frozen up so it won't run fast enough to charge the battery and so we have to renig on most of our pet programs. Have had some most interesting commentaries on world and political matters. Again I thank the kind fates that I'm tucked away in a reasonably peaceful corner of this old U. S. A. Have not seen Mrs. Weber for over a week as she was ill with a bad cold, so didn't come over to dinner last week. Eddie and Gus came and brought the mail and some milk, as our bossy is still out of the running...."

Eddie and Gus are Eddie Lyons, who worked for Gus Weber.

On November 15, 1941, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido published [46]:

MAUD ALLAN VISITING HERE; TO BE SPEAKER

World renown as a dancer, an artist in the top row in her profession, Miss Maud Allan gave up her career on the stage and took a “job” more than a year ago as ambulance driver for the Voluntary Aid Corps in London. For more than a year she filled this position, all through the strenuous time of London’s heaviest bombardment from the air. Her experiences in that duty pale the reports of the newspapers and radio story-tellers. And this lady, a visitor on Palomar in Escondido’s own countryside is to be the speaker at the Kiwanis club Wednesday, the day selected for meeting instead of Thanksgiving Thursday. Miss Allan is a guest on Palomar of her friend of many years, Mrs. Alice Hill. She may stay all winter, but plans part time trips to Los Angeles. The two ladies were in Escondido Friday, looking for information about a certain platinum and diamond pin which Miss Allan lost here two weeks before. They are advertising a reward for the pin in this issue of the Times-Advocate. Miss Allan is a native of Canada, but has divided her life into many parts as to where she spent her time, including her native Canada, England and Australia and on tours in her work or art all over the world. She and Mrs. Hill spent four years on a trip around the world and also

spent much time together in Europe. Since 1908 Miss Allan has made her home in England. She had two houses in London, her home being completely demolished by Nazi bombs and the other damaged, but restored and taken over for military purposes.

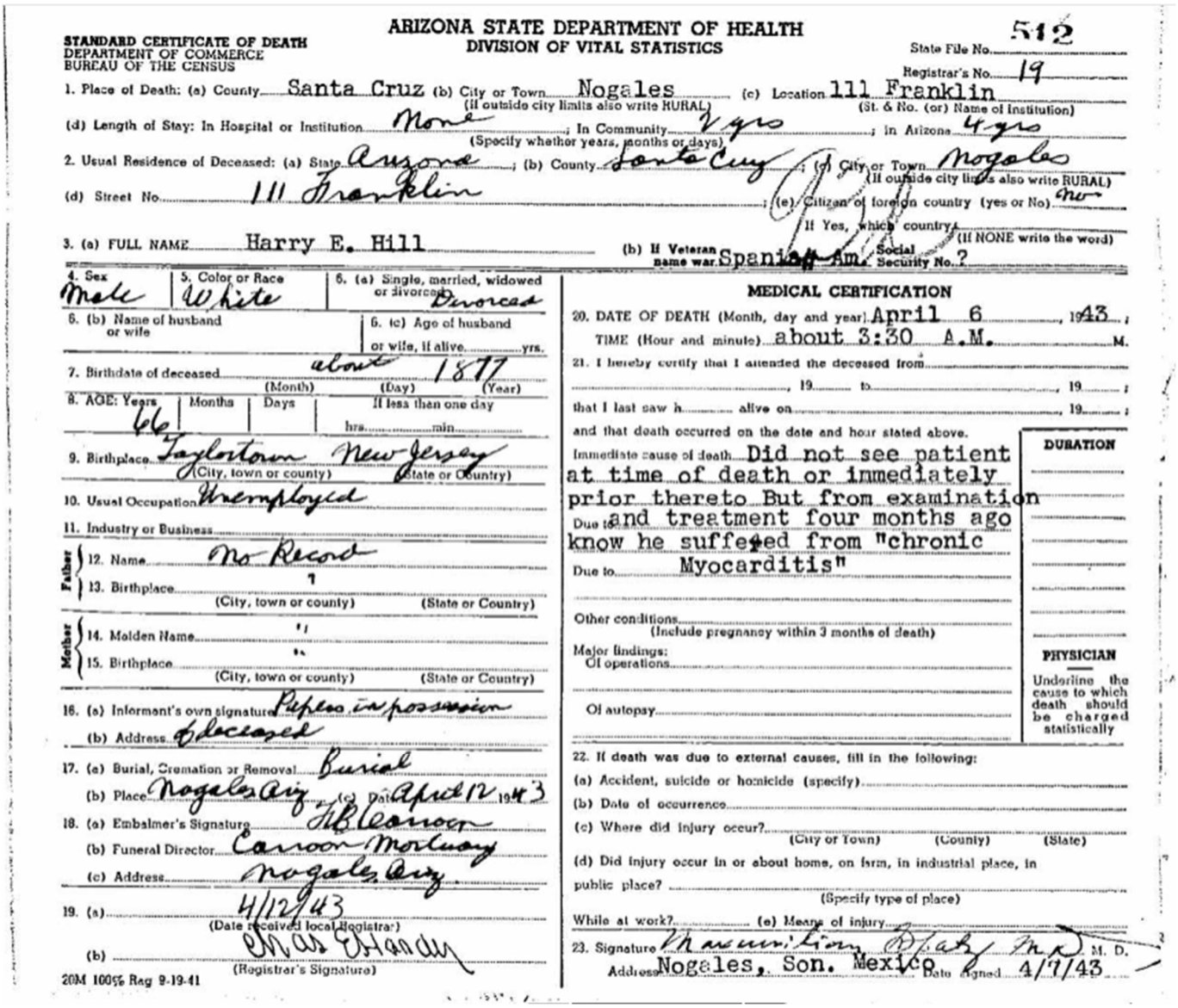
**Maud Allan, c1940** Dance Collection Danse Archive

# LOST and FOUND

LOST: Diamond and platinum stick-pins united by chain; one is letter "M," other "A," each on its pin. Return to Times-Advocate for $5.00 reward. 73d2*

Daily Times-Advocate (Escondido), November 15, 1941, page 4, column 7

Harry Elwood Hill died in Nogales, Arizona on April 6, 1943, and is buried there; he had been living in Arizona for four years.



STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

ARIZONA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

State File No. 512
Registrar's No. 19

1. Place of Death: (a) County Santa Cruz (b) City or Town Nogales (if outside city limits also write RURAL) (c) Location 111 Franklin (St. & No. (or) Name of Institution)
(d) Length of Stay: In Hospital or Institution None; In Community 2 yrs; In Arizona 4 yrs (Specify whether years, months or days)
2. Usual Residence of Deceased: (a) State Arizona; (b) County Santa Cruz; (c) City or Town Nogales (If outside city limits also write RURAL)
(d) Street No. 111 Franklin; (e) Citizen of foreign country (yes or No) No
If Yes, which country? (If NONE write the word)
3. (a) FULL NAME Harry E. Hill (b) If Veteran name war Spanish-Am. Social Security No. ?

| 4. Sex | 5. Color or Race | 6. (a) Single, married, widowed or divorced |
|---|---|---|
| Male | White | Divorced |

6. (b) Name of husband or wife
6. (c) Age of husband or wife, if alive yrs.
7. Birthdate of deceased about (Month) (Day) 1877 (Year)
8. AGE: Years 66 Months Days If less than one day hrs. min.
9. Birthplace Taylortown (City, town or county) New Jersey (State or Country)
10. Usual Occupation Unemployed
11. Industry or Business
Father 12. Name No Record
13. Birthplace (City, town or county) (State or Country)
Mother 14. Maiden Name "
15. Birthplace " (City, town or county) (State or Country)
16. (a) Informant's own signature Papers in possession
(b) Address Deceased
17. (a) Burial, Cremation or Removal Burial
(b) Place Nogales Ariz (c) Date April 12 1943
18. (a) Embalmer's Signature H B Cannon
(b) Funeral Director Cannon Mortuary
(c) Address Nogales, Ariz.
19. (a) 4/12/43 (Date received local Registrar)
(b) Chas E Handley (Registrar's Signature)

20M 100% Reg 9-19-41

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

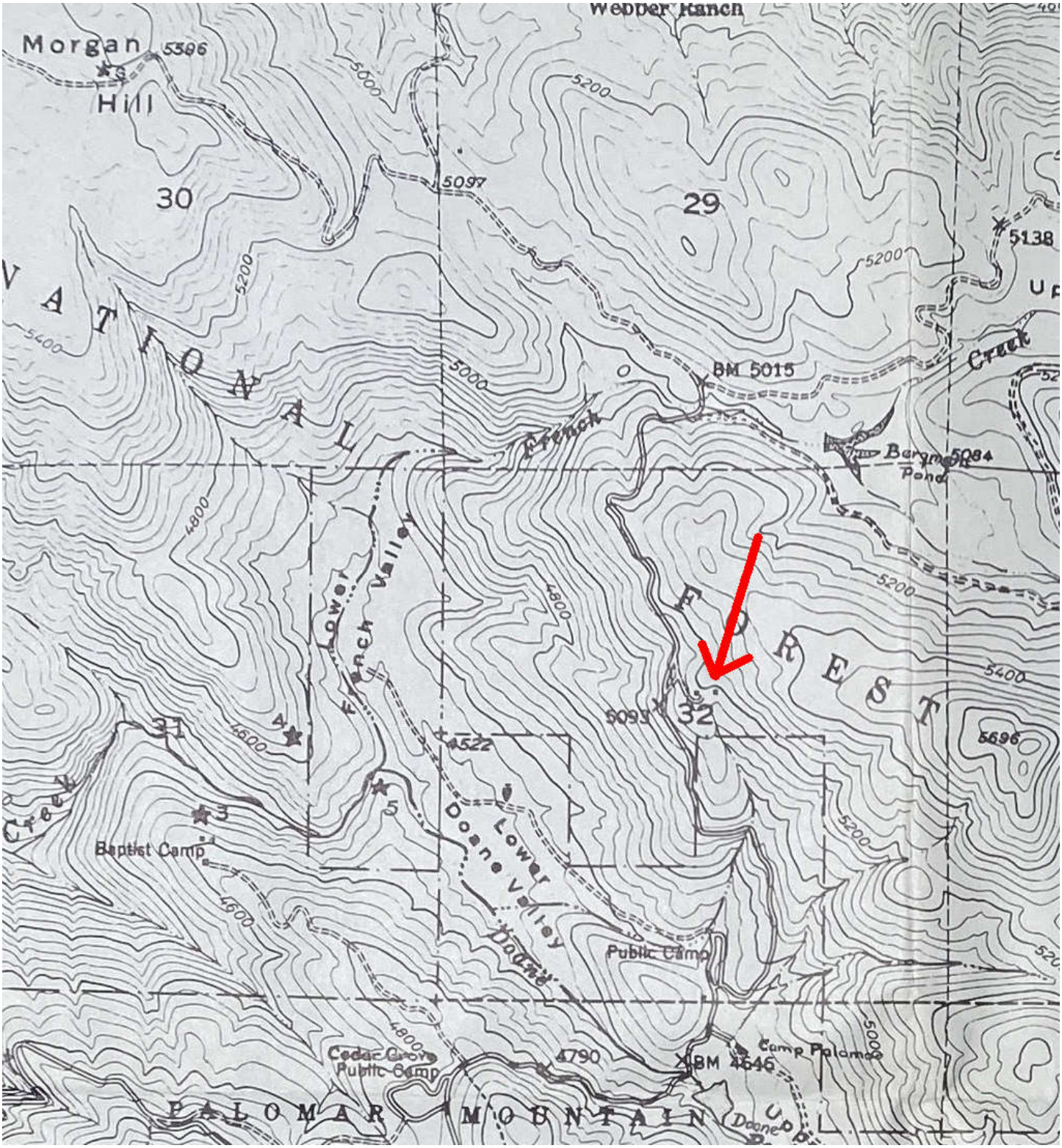
20. DATE OF DEATH (Month, day and year) April 6, 1943
TIME (Hour and minute) about 3:30 A.M. M.
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from ..., 19.. to ..., 19.. ; that I last saw h... alive on ..., 19.. ; and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.
Immediate cause of death Did not see patient at time of death or immediately prior thereto But from examination and treatment four months ago know he suffered from "chronic
Due to Myocarditis"
Due to
Other conditions (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)
Major findings: Of operations
Of autopsy

DURATION

PHYSICIAN
Underline the cause to which death should be charged statistically

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
(a) Accident, suicide or homicide (specify)
(b) Date of occurrence
(c) Where did injury occur? (City or Town) (County) (State)
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? (Specify type of place)
While at work? (e) Means of injury

23. Signature [illegible] M. D.
Address Nogales, Son. Mexico Date signed 4/7/43




**Location of Alice Hill's house on unattributed 1949 Palomar map**

In an entry on July 25, 1948, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [40]:

> July 25. Sunday… To Hill's for day. On acct trouble with battery no mail from latter part of week. Don (Gordon) fixed battery in place. Support had

given away and bottom had fallen through bottom of car. Bur Jodie got me as usual – and she and Mrs Hill got me down to valley as usual.

In an entry on August 1, 1948, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [40]:

> Aug 1. Sunday. Hill Ranch. Clear here. Up as usual stayed over using old bed in barn. I went to bed about 10 P.M. – but others up until after 1 a.m. … Gus Weber's Birthday Party. Gus + Mrs Gus. John + Mrs Fleming and little girl. Mr Dysart and (illegible) son. Mrs Hill, Josephine P. Phil and Bob.

In an entry on August 29, 1948, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [40]:

> Aug 29. Sunday. … To Hill's for day. Hottest day of the year opinion of folks. No water at Hill's in pipes. Going to put elec. motor at pump. Wires already strung on poles. Home as usual. Lot of bottles etc beside me. Mrs H and Jodie going to spring beside road south side of mountain. …

In an entry on October 3, 1948, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [40]:

> Oct 3. Sunday. … To Hill's for the day. Miss Maud Allan there. All three down with me in the late P.M. John Fleming + family there 5 P.M. to near 6. …

On June 7, 1949, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido published [47]:

> Among the visitors at Mrs. Alice Hill's last week were Kenneth Beach and his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Vermeulen… While at Mrs. Hill's they admired Miss Pilkington's "Querkies." In fact, Vermuelen suggested taking them with him to Holland to exhibit. At least, he says, they should be exhibited in Los Angeles. These "Querkies" – the name is derived from quercus, or oak – are entirely original with Miss Pilkington. Creating them filled her days while snowbound last winter. Her materials she had picked up during walks: water-washed knots, wild buckwheat, lupin stems, moss. These odd bits of wood, with their fantastic curlicues, she sees with an artist's eye, "beautiful carvings done by nature, lying out in storms for heaven knows how long, weathered to a silvery tone till they look like carved jade." Given an oak burl, a few stems of white sage or a lupin root, with maybe a Chinese figurine and a touch of surrealism, and lo, a clever little art piece! Miss Pilkington is a cousin of Mrs. Hill. Mrs. Hill was once an actress of considerable note. Her stage name was Alice Lonnon. Born of a pioneer family of San Francisco, she was, for a number of years with the Williard Dramatic company of London. Her first speaking part was with Madame Modjeska. Another recent visitor at Mrs. Hill's was Mrs. Laura Munson, who has a story-telling radio program over KLAC, connected with

the Los Angeles Youth Education program. Two summers ago she (then Mrs. Schwartz) spent several weeks at Mrs. Hill's writing.

On July 7, 1949, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido published [48]:

Ex-Dancer Visits

Miss Maud Allan, of Pasadena, and London, arrived Tuesday for a visit at the ranch of Mrs. Alice Hill. A former school friend of Mrs. Hill in San Francisco, Miss Allan was once a world-famous dancer. She began her career studying music in Berlin as a concert pianist, but became interested in the idea of dance interpretation of the classics. By odd coincidence, she and Isadora Duncan appeared in Paris the same week with their own creative music interpretations, which then proved to be similar. Miss Allan was in London at the beginning of the war and for some time drove an ambulance and service car. Her London property is still under crown lease.

**Maud Allan, front row center, San Francisco, c1948-1949.** Dance Collection Danse Archive

In an entry on July 24, 1949, Robert Asher wrote in his diary [40]:

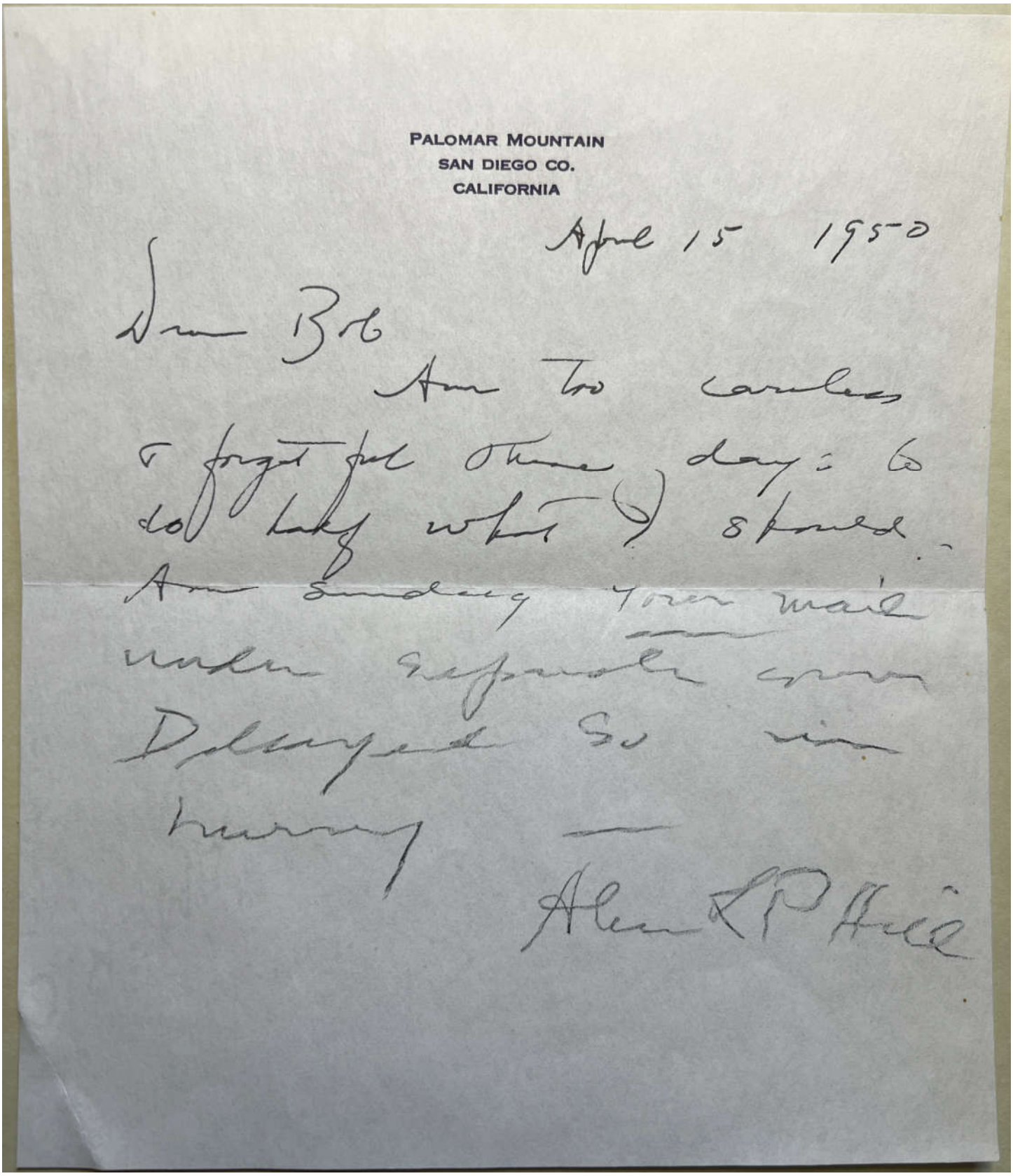
> July 24. Sunday. … To Hill's for day. Very weak. On my way home, Miss Josie (Josephine Pilkington, Alice Hill's cousin) and Miss Maud (Allan) carried my groceries up to camp. Mrs Hill at car. …

On September 21, 1949, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido published [49]:

> Miss Maud Allan, of Los Angeles, a guest of Mrs. Alice Hill during the summer, returned to her home on Saturday.

On October 19, 1949, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido published [50]:

> Mrs. Alice Hill and Miss Josephine Pilkington motored to El Cajon Monday, accompanying Bob Asher there. Early in the summer, Asher became too ill to stay alone in his cabin in Lower Doane Valley, and since then has been a guest at the Hill ranch. He is an old-timer on the mountain and has done many paintings of Palomar scenes.



PALOMAR MOUNTAIN
SAN DIEGO CO.
CALIFORNIA

April 15 1950

Dear Bob

Am too careless
& forget for three days to
do baby work I should.
Am sending your mail
under separate cover
Delayed so in
hurry

Alice K P Hill

**Alice Hill letter to Robert Asher** [59]

On May 18, 1950, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido published [51]:

> Bob Asher returned to the mountain last week to spend the summer. He will camp at the ranch of Mrs. Alice Hill.

The 1950 U.S. Census recorded May 20 lists Alice L. Hill, marital status as separated, living on Palomar Mountain as head of household, with her brother Phillip J. Perkins, her cousin Josephine K. Pilkington, and Robert H. Asher as a lodger.

Alice Lonnon Perkins Hill moved off Palomar to Escondido in 1951 [4]. Robert Asher wrote in his memoir *My Palomar* [1]:

> Due to increasing difficulty in carrying on, Mrs. Hill sold the ranch to Ralph Meyers and she moved to Escondido.

On June 8, 1951, the Times-Advocate of Escondido published [52]:

> Mrs. Alice Hill has sold her ranch to Ralph Myers. Mrs. Hill came up the mountain for the first time in 1917, riding horseback from Ramona. In 1919 she came up to stay, homesteading 55 acres above State park, a most sightly location. Formerly a well known Shakespearean actress, Mrs. Hill came her for her health. For the past few years, her brother, Dr. Phillip Perkins has made his home with her. Recently she sold part of her ranch to Russell Dysart, geology professor of Chaffee college. For the present, Mrs. Hill and Dr. Perkins will make their home in Escondido. Bob Asher, artist and oldtimer of Palomar, was a guest of Mrs. Hill during the past week.

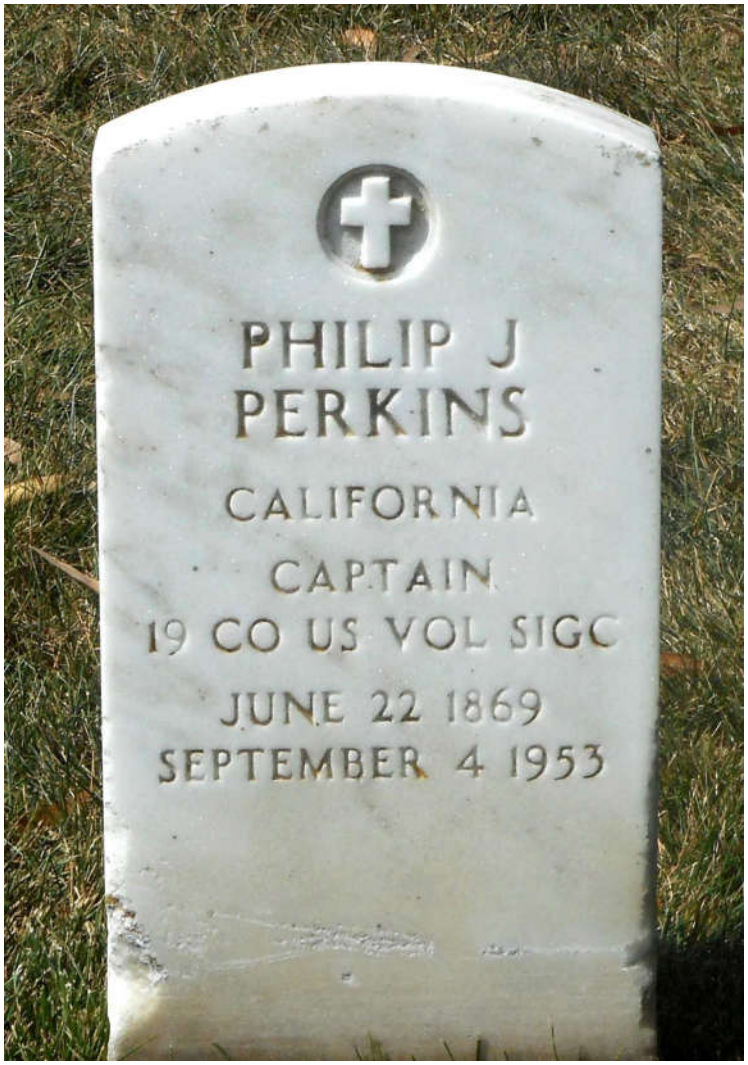
On July 13, 1951, the Times-Advocate of Escondido published [53]:

> Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Myers and Dean took Mrs. Alice Hill and brother, Dr. Phillip Perkins, to Escondido Sunday. Mrs. Hill recently sold her ranch to the Myers, after many years' residence on the mountain. For the present she and Dr. Perkins will occupy house-keeping rooms at Third and Maple in Escondido.

On September 4, 1953, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido reported [33]:

> Death Claims Dr. Perkins
>
> Dr. Philip J. Perkins, 84, died Friday morning at his home, 140 West Third avenue, Escondido. He had lived in Escondido for two years, coming from Palomar Mountain where he had resided for 15 years. A native of California, he was born June 22, 1869, in San Francisco. His parents, the late Joseph and Charlotta Perkins, arrived in San Francisco in 1850. Dr. Perkins, a

retired dentist, practiced his profession in San Francisco for 40 years. He was a United States Spanish War veteran and a member of John R. Simpson Post No. 1513, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Survivors are a daughter, Mrs. William Simmons of Alameda; and a sister, Mrs. Alice L.P. Hill of Escondido. Funeral arrangements are pending at the Alhiser-Wilson mortuary.



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Alice Lonnon Perkins died on May 6, 1962. On May 7, 1962, the Escondido Times Advocate reported [4]:

Former Follies Girl Dies at 89

Mrs. Alice Lonnon Perkins Hill, 89, of 140 West Third Avenue, retired theatrical performer and a Ziegfeld Follies girl, died Sunday in a Lakeside nursing home. Mrs. Hill moved to Escondido in 1951 following a 30-year residency on Palomar Mountain. Her career included traveling with Madam Modjeska with whom she started show business in 1894 at San Francisco. She was born in Oakland. World-wide travels were made with Maud Allan,

the dancer, during which time she was a reciter who appeared under the name Alice Lonnon. Other work was as part of the E.S. Willard Company, performing in the eastern part of the country and London. She was making her home here with a cousin, Miss Josephine Pilkington. Services will be at 5 p.m. Tuesday at Alhiser-Wilson Chapel. Internment will follow later at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, on Point Loma.

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